

For the first time, an endorsement

The USA TODAY Editorial Board breaks tradition to endorse a candidate, Joe Biden. **6A**

● **Opposing view:** Vice President Mike Pence makes case for President Trump. **7A**

● **The Backstory:** Editorial Board endorsement doesn't sway our news coverage. **7A**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$2 | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020



JOE BIDEN BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; DONALD TRUMP BY BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ELECTION 2020

As Trump ally, Barr puts DOJ on ballot

Analysts fear erosion of Justice's independence

Kevin Johnson and Kristine Phillips
USA TODAY

The fraught tenure of Jeff Sessions had been put out of its misery, and the awkward stand-in appointment of Matthew Whitaker had run its course.

It was the first day of William Barr's second stint as attorney general of the United States, and there was a craving for a semblance of normalcy inside a Justice Department under siege by the president.

In a matter a weeks, Barr began charting a course that threatened to deepen the upheaval within the sprawling department.

Most alarming, analysts said, is the attorney general's unwavering advocacy for President Donald Trump, his support for the unbound authority of the chief executive and its potential to deeply undermine the Justice Department's long-guarded institutional independence.

From his steadfast defense of Trump in the face of damning findings outlined in the Russia investigation to interventions in the prosecutions of the president's allies, Barr has drawn

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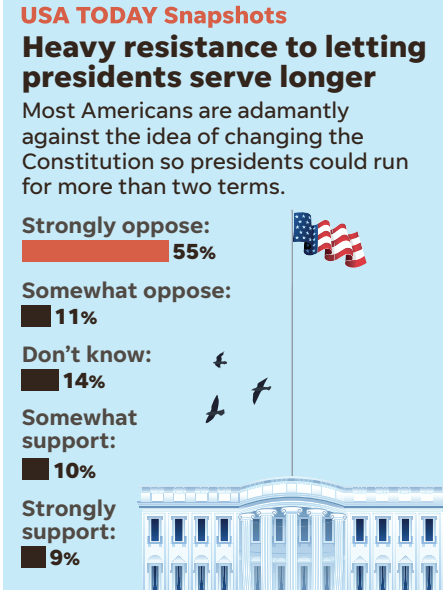
ORLANDO RAMIREZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

World Series: LA, Tampa Bay in Game 1

Championship features a Dodgers squad seeking its first title since 1988, and the Tampa Bay Rays hoping to win their first pennant ever. **In Sports**



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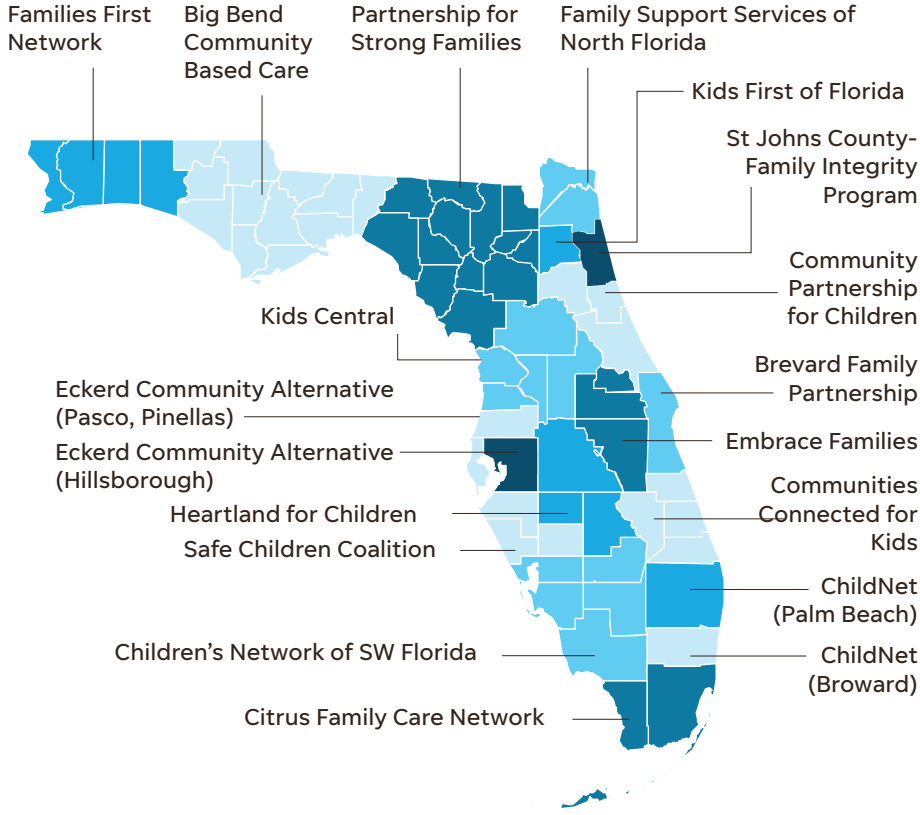
Children's faces were formed in concrete blocks outside the Daytona Beach Regional Service Center, which houses the offices of the Department of Children and Families. THOMAS CORDY/USA TODAY NETWORK

'THE SYSTEM IS SO BROKEN'

Florida failed to keep foster kids safe, sending hundreds to known abusers

Lead agencies

Private nonprofits that run the child welfare system on the local level



SOURCE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES
JENNIFER BORRESEN/USA TODAY

Michael Braga, Pat Beall,
Daphne Chen and Josh Salman
USA TODAY NETWORK

Six years ago, Florida lawmakers embraced a tough new approach to stop parents from abusing their children.

They approved millions to hire more child welfare investigators and rewrote rules to make it easier to seize children from their parents.

The plan, signed into law by then-Gov. Rick Scott, was widely embraced as a historic stand against child abuse, a critical rethinking of philosophy that had made regulators soft on abusers.

But there was a problem: No one had figured out where to put all the children.

In months, the foster care system found itself drowning in hundreds of new cases. By 2017, the state needed space for 6,000 additional foster children – an influx equivalent to the size of the entire foster population of the state of New Jersey.

Lawmakers, child welfare leaders and Scott did not hire more caseworkers or increase the money paid to foster families to make more homes. They failed to tackle the root problems driving most of the removals: lack of access

See CHILDREN, Page 4A

How close is a COVID-19 stimulus relief deal?

Nicholas Wu
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The clock is ticking for Democrats and Republicans to reach a COVID-19 relief deal after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi set Tuesday as the deadline for both sides to come together to restore urgently needed benefits before Election Day.

Both sides are struggling to cut a deal weeks before the election.

Democrats and Republicans are hundreds of billions of dollars apart in their pandemic response proposals, and they've been unable to resolve major policy differences on COVID-19 testing, child tax credit provisions and

"We can't wait until February. It's unacceptable."

Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J.,
Problem Solvers Caucus

funding for state and local governments.

Congress passed a comprehensive aid package called the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act in March, but many of its provisions have lapsed.

The federal boost to unemployment

benefits ran out in July, airline assistance expired in October, and Americans weathering an economic recession eagerly await another round of relief checks.

President Donald Trump ended relief talks at the beginning of the month, telling Senate Republicans to focus instead on the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett, but he reversed course, reopening negotiations with congressional Democrats.

How much funding?

Democrats want about \$2.2 trillion in

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WASHINGTON

Stimulus

Continued from Page 1A

funding, and the White House proposed about \$1.8 trillion. Senate Republicans are set to act on a \$500 billion plan Wednesday. Trump said he wants more funding than Democrats and his own negotiators offered.

What do Democrats want?

Congressional Democrats have held fast to their \$2.2 trillion proposal outlined in legislation the Democratic-controlled House passed at the beginning of October.

They had initially proposed a \$3.4 trillion plan Republicans rejected as too expensive.

Pelosi, D-Calif., said Sunday on ABC News’ “This Week” that both sides had until Tuesday to reach a deal if they wanted a package passed before the election.

Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, one of the lead White House negotiators, spoke for almost an hour Monday afternoon, Pelosi spokesperson Drew Hammill said. They “continued to narrow their differences,” Hammill said, and are set to speak again Tuesday.

Both sides gridlocked over provisions such as the amount of the federal unemployment boost and aid for state and local governments.

The Democratic proposal includes \$600 per week in unemployment benefits, which Senate Republicans said would serve as a disincentive to work. Democrats want \$436 billion in assistance for state and local governments, many of which have seen their budgets stretched by the COVID-19 pandemic. Republicans fear such a large allocation of funding would add to the deficit and bail out mismanaged governments.

Some Democrats criticized Pelosi’s position, calling for the House to take the White House’s \$1.8 trillion offer and use it as a foundation for more aid if Democrats win the White House, keep control of the House and flip control of the Senate.

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., said last week in a CNN interview that he and many other members of Congress believe “what is unacceptable is for us to go away with no deal.”

What does White House want?

The White House’s position has shifted several times over the past month.

At the beginning of October, Trump halted months of negotiations, then reversed course, calling for standalone aid bills to provide another round of checks to Americans and relief for airlines. He reopened negotiations with Democrats, and White House negotiators offered a \$1.8 trillion deal.

The White House acknowledged Senate Republicans are more unlikely to support a relief bill the higher the price tag goes. The administration has not publicly released details of its plan or text of proposed legislation.

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, one of the lead White House negotiators, said Monday, “The Senate Republicans have been very vocal in terms of their lack of support of a number that isn’t even close to what the president has already supported at the \$1.8 trillion range.” Whether enough Republican senators would support a deal is “up to Leader (Mitch) McConnell,” he said, referring to the Kentucky Republican and Senate majority leader.

Trump said he wants a deal even larger than what his negotiators pro-

posed. “I want to do it at a bigger number than (Pelosi) wants,” he said Sunday, expecting Senate Republicans would go along with him if a deal were reached.

What do Republicans want?

The Republican-controlled Senate is set to return from its recess and vote this week on two related bills, though Republicans probably lack the votes to overcome Democrats’ objections.

They will take up a bill that would reauthorize the Paycheck Protection Program for small-business loan forgiveness Tuesday and a \$500 billion relief bill Wednesday. McConnell said Saturday their plan would include more unemployment benefits and more than \$100 billion for schools and vaccine funding, among other provisions.

Both bills require the support of at least 60 senators to break a procedural roadblock called a filibuster, an unlikely scenario given Democrats’ opposition. The 53-47 composition of the Senate between Republicans and Democrats means at least seven Democrats would need to break from their party to agree to end debate and advance to a final vote on a bill.

Democrats have refused to support standalone bills unless they receive guarantees a larger bill would be considered, and they criticized Republicans’ relief plan as too small to respond to the pandemic.

Republicans attempted to pass a similar, smaller bill priced at about \$300 billion in September, but Senate Democrats blocked it.

Saturday, McConnell left the door open to considering a larger package brokered by the White House and Democrats, saying in a statement, “If Speaker Pelosi ever lets the House reach a bipartisan agreement with the administration, the Senate would of course consider it.”

Do any plans have relief checks?

The Democrats’ plan includes another round of \$1,200 checks. The White House has not released the text of its proposal, though Trump said he wants \$1,200 checks.

The Senate Republicans’ \$500 billion plan does not include more individual payments.

What do Congress members say?

Some lawmakers are pessimistic. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., told CNBC on Monday morning he would put the chances of a deal before the election at “50/50 at best, frankly,” calling the situation “frustrating.”

Pelosi told House Democrats in a letter Sunday she was “optimistic that we can reach agreement before the election.”

Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., co-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group of lawmakers who introduced their own coronavirus relief framework in September, said Monday it was “unconscionable that it not get done” before the election.

“We can’t wait until February. It’s unacceptable,” he said.

Some members of Congress are unhappy with the lack of input rank-and-file lawmakers get in the drafting of legislation.

Rep. David Joyce, R-Ohio, a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus, criticized having a plan handed down from party leadership, noting that members of the bipartisan Problem Solvers were able to come up with a framework by negotiating with each other.

NASA has been tracking the asteroid since it was discovered in 2018 by the Zwicky Transient Facility at Palomar Observatory in California. They found it was likely to be near Earth on Nov. 2.

In August, news of the 6.5-foot asteroid’s approach spread due to its proximity to Election Day in the United States.

NASA, through an official social media account dedicated to asteroid observation, dispelled the notion.

According to NASA, 2018VP1 poses “no threat” to Earth.

“It currently has a 0.41% chance of entering our planet’s atmosphere, but if it did, it would disintegrate due to its extremely small size,” NASA said.

Justices to rule on asylum case

Trump policy keeps migrants in Mexico

Richard Wolf
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide the fate of a Trump administration policy that forces migrants seeking asylum to remain in Mexico while their applications are pending.

The decision to hear the case is a victory for the Department of Homeland Security, because the policy has twice been declared illegal by lower federal courts. Even so, those rulings have been put on hold, and it has been in effect since January 2019.

Attorneys for those challenging the policy say it endangers thousands of Central Americans traveling through Mexico to reach the United States by subjecting them to potential harm at the hands of Central American gangs, Mexican cartels and corrupt government officials.

“Asylum-seekers face grave danger every day this illegal and depraved policy is in effect,” said Judy Rabinovitz, lead counsel in the lawsuit for the American Civil Liberties Union.

But the Supreme Court in March let the policy remain in effect while deciding whether to hear an appeal from the Justice Department, which warned that many of the more than 25,000 asylum-seekers sent to Mexico would rush into the USA if a lower court’s injunction was allowed to take effect.

The actions, known as Migrant Protection Protocols, represent one of several administration efforts to reduce the number of asylum-seekers entering the country. Trump has cut back and, at times, completely suspended the refugee and asylum systems that allow those fleeing war, vio-

lence or persecution to seek safe haven. The asylum policy is one of several issues that could be moot if Democrat Joe Biden wins next month’s election. The case is unlikely to be scheduled for argument before February.

The Department of Homeland Security implemented the policy along the borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to deter asylum-seekers from crossing the southern border. Applicants have been sent back to seven Mexican border cities, from Tijuana to Matamoros.

In February, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled that the policy violates federal immigration law, which allows asylum-seekers who have ex-

“Asylum-seekers face grave danger every day this illegal and depraved policy is in effect.”

Judy Rabinovitz
American Civil Liberties Union

pressed “credible fear” of persecution to remain in the United States.

Under the policy, asylum-seekers may come back to the United States only to appear for their court hearings. Immigration officials are instructed not to ask asylum-seekers whether they fear returning to Mexico.

The policy “has had serious adverse consequences” to asylum-seekers who have shown proof that they faced discrimination, sexual and physical violence, corrupt law enforcement, hunger and homelessness after returning to Mexico, appeals court Judge William Fletcher wrote.

The Supreme Court likely will hear the case early next year and decide the policy’s fate by June.

Small asteroid may ‘buzz-cut’ Earth on day before election

Sarah Brookbank
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 6.5-foot asteroid will zoom past Earth just before Election Day but astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson says it’s nothing to worry about.

“Asteroid 2018VP1, a refrigerator-sized space-rock, is hurtling towards us at more than 40,000 km/hr. It may buzz-cut Earth on Nov 2, the day before the Presidential Election,” he said.

NASA has previously said it has a 0.41% chance of entering our atmosphere.

“It’s not big enough to cause harm. So if the World ends in 2020, it won’t be the fault of the Universe,” Tyson said.

NATION

Trump slams
Fauci as a
‘disaster’ after
TV interview

William Cummings
and David Jackson
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump blasted Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government’s top infectious disease expert, as a “disaster” on Monday, a day after Fauci said in an interview that it came as no shock to him when the president tested positive for COVID-19 because Trump regularly eschewed the use of masks “as a statement of strength.”

During a conference call with his campaign staff on Monday, Trump said Fauci drops a “bomb” every time he goes on television, but it would be “a bigger bomb if you fire him. This guy’s a disaster.”

Trump added that people don’t want to hear about the pandemic and are saying “just leave us alone” to public health experts like Fauci, who has served as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984.

“People are tired of hearing Fauci and all these idiots,” Trump said.

Later Monday, the president also posted a tweet criticizing Fauci.

A day earlier, Fauci had been asked in a CBS News “60 Minutes” interview if he was surprised the president contracted the coronavirus.

“Absolutely not,” Fauci replied.

“I was worried that he was going to get sick when I saw him in a completely precarious situation of crowded – no separation between people, and almost nobody wearing a mask,” he said, referring to the White House Rose Garden event where Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

Of the people who attended the Sept. 26 White House ceremony, nearly a dozen tested positive for the coronavirus including Trump, first lady Melania Trump, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Utah Sen. Mike Lee and North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis.

Fauci told “60 Minutes” he believes Trump – who rarely wears a mask in public, particularly before he became infected – avoids masks because he sees it as “a statement of strength, like, ‘We’re strong, we don’t need a mask,’ that kind of thing.”

“He sometimes equates wearing a mask with weakness,” added Fauci.

But he did not believe the president’s reluctance to wear a mask was rooted in general opposition to science.

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Postal information

Volume 39, No. 26
USA TODAY, USPS #684090, ISSN #0734-7456, is published Monday through Friday at 7950 Jones Branch Dr. McLean, VA 22108. Periodicals postage paid at McLean, VA 22108. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 62670, San Angelo, TX 76906



Flames from the Cameron Peak Fire, the largest wildfire in Colorado history, burn trees along a ridge outside Estes Park, Colo. on Friday.
BETHANY BAKER VIA AP

Colo. doing battle
with two wildfires

One blaze is the largest
in the state’s history

Susan Miller
USA TODAY

Colorado crews scrambled Monday to gain ground against two blazes – including the largest in state history – as this year’s historic wildfire season imparted more heartbreak and hardships on the West.

The Cameron Peak Fire, which has torched more than 203,600 acres through the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests near Cameron Pass and Chambers Lake in Larimer County, was 62% contained as of Monday. Gusty winds and dry conditions have fueled the growth of the fire, which ignited in August, according to the the U.S. Forest Service said.

Cloudy conditions and poor visibility kept fire aircraft grounded, but the weather also aided in making progress on a few hot spots, fire officials said.

The Larimer County Sheriff’s Office assembled 10 assessment teams to tally the damage of the fire’s most recent pushes, Sheriff Justin Smith wrote in a Facebook post Monday morning.

Another blaze, the Calwood Fire raging in the north-central part of the state, forced nearly 3,000 people to flee – including residents of tiny Jamestown at the foothills of the Rockies – over the weekend. The fire, which ignited Saturday near the Cal-Wood Education Center about 17 miles from downtown Boulder, has singed more than 8,700 acres and is 15% contained.

At least 26 homes have been lost to the blaze, which is being driven by ferocious winds, said Mike Wagner, division chief with the Boulder County

Sheriff’s Office. The National Center for Atmospheric Research’s Mesa lab recorded gusts of 59 mph on Saturday.

Mary Ann Beard told the Daily Camera she has been forced to evacuate her Mountain Ridge home five times. When she got a call Saturday, she assumed the order was for the Cameron Peak Fire, not realizing the Cal-Wood blaze was burning less than 15 miles away.

“I’ve learned to just have a duffle bag open in the closet to just throw clothes into it,” she told the newspaper. “And that’s what happened.”

Beard said 17 homes dotted her subdivision, “and now there’s only one standing. There’s just foundations and smoke coming from everywhere. I don’t think it’s all hit me yet.”

Courtney Walsh told the Denver Post she had about a 30-minute warning to gather her children, animals and belongings before sheriff’s deputies urged her to leave her house near Boulder on Saturday afternoon.

“We were just waiting and waiting, and you know there is Twitter and live feeds,” she said. “Then we saw a picture from the National Weather Service, and it focused on our house burning. So then we knew.”

The Colorado wildfires were among more than 60 major fires burning in 11 Western states, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

In California, more than a dozen wildfires have raged in recent months. But there was some good news: The White House and the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the state’s request for disaster relief funds to clean up from six blazes.

Contributing: John Bacon, USA TODAY; Sarah Kyle, Fort Collins Coloradoan; The Associated Press

Tropical Storm Epsilon
looks to gain strength

Cheryl McCloud
USA TODAY NETWORK

Tropical Storm Epsilon formed in the Atlantic Ocean on Monday and should reach hurricane strength by Thursday, the National Hurricane Center said.

Epsilon has maximum sustained winds near 40 mph and is about 735 miles southeast of Bermuda.

Gradual strengthening is forecast during the next 72 hours, and the storm is forecast to approach Bermuda as a hurricane later this week.

“While it is too soon to determine the exact details of Epsilon’s track and intensity near the island, there is a risk of direct impacts from wind, rainfall and storm surge on Bermuda, and interests there should closely monitor the progress of Epsilon,” the Hurricane Center said.

Epsilon is not expected to affect the U.S. East Coast.

Another system in the Caribbean has a low chance for development over the next few days. However, “some

gradual development of this system is possible late this week while it moves slowly northwestward or north-northwestward over the western Caribbean Sea,” the Hurricane Center said.

The strength or final track of this potential system remains highly uncertain, the Weather Channel said. “It’s too soon to know if this potential system will affect any other land areas in the long-term future,” the Weather Channel reported.

If it develops into a tropical storm, it would take on the name Zeta.

With Epsilon’s formation, a total of 26 systems have reached tropical storm strength or greater in the Atlantic Ocean this season.

This season is closing in on the record of 28 named storms set in 2005, according to AccuWeather.

Epsilon also represents a record for the earliest 26th named storm, beating out Nov. 22 in 2005, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

Contributing: The Associated Press, Doyle Rice, USA TODAY

ELECTION 2020

Trump hits
back at
dissent in
GOP ranks

David Jackson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – With just over two weeks left until Election Day, President Donald Trump rallied supporters at a Nevada campaign stop by warning of what he called a “socialist” Democratic agenda, but he also had a message for Republicans: Stick together.

At a Carson City, Nevada, airport rally, Trump mocked Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., one of several Republicans who have criticized the president publicly in recent days.

Trump was responding to a barrage of criticisms unleashed by Sasse last week during a conference call with constituents.

Under Trump’s leadership, Sasse said, the “United States now regularly sells out our allies.”

“The way he treats women and spends like a drunken sailor. ... His family has treated the presidency like a business opportunity. He’s flirted with white supremacists,” he added.

In Carson City, Trump hurled the nickname “Little Ben Sasse” at the GOP senator.

“The Republicans have to stick together, Ben,” he said.

But Sasse isn’t the only Senate Republican who has taken Trump to task in recent days.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, facing a tough reelection battle himself, told a Texas newspaper that he has disagreed, privately, with Trump on issues like spending, trade, the COVID-19 response, and the proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Speaking with the editorial board of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Cornyn likened his relationship with Trump to a troubled marriage.

“Maybe like a lot of women who get married and think they’re going to change their spouse, and that doesn’t usually work out very well.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has also sought distance from the president, and made clear his top priority in the election is preserving Republican control of the Senate.

In Nevada, Trump said “the Republicans have to learn – they got to stick together.”

Trailing in a string of national and state polls, Trump on Sunday kicked off a week of campaign rallies – and a debate – by doubling down on his attacks on his Democratic rival Joe Biden.

“Joe Biden is from a failed and corrupt political class,” Trump said.

Trump accused the Democrat of favoring a “socialist takeover” of the economy and questioned his opponent’s mental acuity by saying “Biden is gonzo.”

He also claimed that Biden is working with son Hunter on business dealings in Ukraine and China, citing news reports based on questionable sources.

Biden and his supporters say Trump is simply lying because he is trailing badly in the election. They also said he doesn’t want to talk about his failures with the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent breakdown of the economy.

“Trump has failed America on the coronavirus and the economy, so he’s resorting to the tactics pioneered by dictators around the world,” said Josh Schwerin of Priorities USA Action, a political action committee that supports Democratic candidates.

Schwerin said Trump is “trying to inflame the fringes of his base with hatred and fear.”

Following his Nevada speech, Trump has rallies this week in three swing states where he is seen as struggling: Arizona on Monday, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, and North Carolina on Wednesday.

The debate with Biden, the last one of the campaign, comes Thursday in Nashville, Tennessee.

USA TODAY NETWORK INVESTIGATION

Children

Continued from Page 1A

to drug treatment, mental health care and domestic violence services for parents.

Foster care agencies packed children into overcrowded homes and sent hundreds of boys and girls to foster parents accused of abusing or neglecting the children in their care, according to a USA TODAY investigation.

Using a state database to examine more than 1 million foster home placements going back a decade and crisscrossing the state to interview more than 100 survivors, parents and caseworkers, USA TODAY found:

- The Department of Children and Families and private agencies that manage the child welfare system across Florida sent nearly 170 children to live in foster homes where the state had evidence that abuse occurred.

- Caseworkers ignored or overruled DCF safety guidelines to crowd children into foster homes not equipped to handle them.

- As caseloads rose, child welfare workers skipped home visits and parent training sessions because they could not keep up with required safety checks. They fabricated logs to make it appear as if the sessions took place. When caseworkers lied and omitted information from their reports, children got hurt, according to lawsuits and DCF inspector general reports.

DCF and the nonprofit agencies in charge of foster care repeatedly tried to prevent USA TODAY from obtaining information about foster parents and the allegations against them. They demanded \$50,000 for search-and-copy fees for disciplinary records.

In reaction to one USA TODAY records request, DCF officials pressed legislators to pass a law to make foster parent names secret from the public – an effort that failed.



Poppell

In January, DCF Secretary Chad Poppell said in a statement that many problems in Florida’s system stem from the decision to privatize foster care in the early 2000s, putting decision making in the hands of nonprofit groups. DCF “faded into the background and became too distant from the front lines of child welfare,” he said.

“This has led to a fractured system that is not appropriately resourced, lacks bandwidth for increases in children in care and is not performance driven,” Poppell said. “This is not how I would design a system around my own children, and especially not our children in foster care.”

Poppell promised to fight for greater accountability and more “resources to drive performance and positive outcomes for families.”

During Florida’s legislative session, which adjourned in March, he secured at least \$7 million for a quality assurance office to make sure DCF learns from its mistakes.

He responded to USA TODAY’s reporting by forming a task force to improve the state’s procedures for handling sex abuse investigations.

USA TODAY found that Florida’s child welfare system repeatedly risks children’s safety on foster parents with criminal records and abuse allegations.

In Lee County, child welfare workers placed 20 foster children with a couple over the course of six years despite multiple abuse allegations that DCF declined to explain. The stream finally stopped last year after police were approached by two boys who testified they had been whipped with belts and locked in cages.

“The system is so broken, it makes me want to cry,” said Brandy Towler, whose adoptive daughter lived with a Sarasota County foster parent charged with molestation. “Our most vulnerable children are being preyed upon.”

No safe place to call home

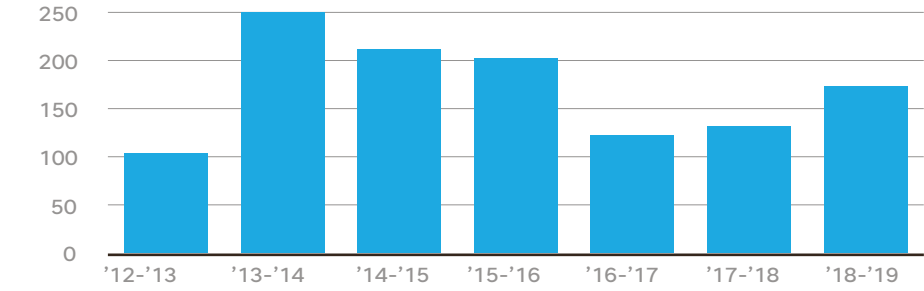
After the Miami Herald published a series of stories in 2014 revealing nearly 500 children had died when DCF left them in abusive homes, legislators pushed to change the fundamentals of Florida’s child welfare law.

Backed by child advocacy groups, lawmakers unanimously passed measures that added investigators to crack down on abusive and neglectful parents and created a critical response team to speed up interventions.

The message: Child safety comes first, even if it breaks up families.

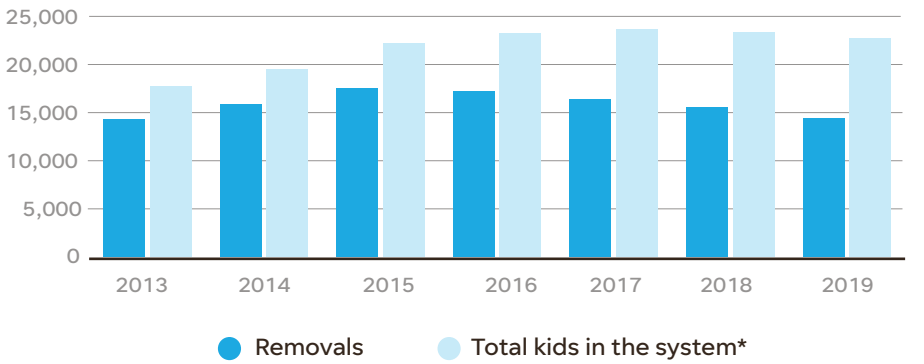
Statewide, total children in the system reached a high-water mark of near-

Foster parent licenses added by year



SOURCE Department of Children & Families Child Welfare Dashboard

Removals of children from their homes – and total kids in the system 2013-2019



* As of December of each year

SOURCE Department of Children & Families Child Welfare Dashboard
JENNIFER BORRESEN/USA TODAY

USATODAY.COM

Torn Apart

● Read more from this USA TODAY Network investigation, including more disturbing failures in the foster system: [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com)

24,000 in 2017 – a 34% increase in five years.

Officials initially set aside \$16 million to deal with the influx, but it wasn’t nearly enough.

From 2014 through 2016, news reports from around the state showed what happened to foster children who had nowhere to go. They bedded down in office buildings and in cars parked at a Wawa and a Dollar General in Hillsborough County. Infants were placed in emergency shelters designed for older children and cared for by shelter shift workers.

“Foster families are the lifeblood of the system,” said Mike Watkins, chief executive of Big Bend Community Based Care, which manages child welfare in Tallahassee and the Panhandle area. “If you don’t have a place to put these kids, bad things will happen.”

In Alachua County, a suicidal teenager was among the children left to spend the day in the offices of the Partnership for Strong Families, the nonprofit group in charge of child welfare in the Gainesville area. Despite having run away 11 times from March to May 2015 – and once from PSF’s offices eight days earlier – case managers left her “completely unsupervised” in the lobby of their building, according to claims in a lawsuit filed in 2017.

The girl slipped out after telling caretakers she was going to the store. Police found her body the following day 40 miles away.

She had thrown herself 90 feet off a bridge into a ravine.

The lawsuit was settled in mediation. In Collier County, a 9-year-old boy repeatedly told his caseworkers in late 2015 and early 2016 that he did not feel safe in the emergency shelter where he had been placed. “He was afraid of people holding him to the ground,” according to allegations in a lawsuit filed against the organizations charged with his care. By the time caseworkers saw bruises on his legs and arms, he had been sexually assaulted by a 16-year-old shelter resident, the lawsuit said.

Parties in the case reached a settlement last year.

Executives at nonprofit agencies sounded the alarm, begging state officials to send them more money to cover rising costs and find new foster parents.

The hardest-hit agencies had to lay off staff. Others implemented hiring freezes.

Still, they had to find a place to put the increasing number of kids.

Many turned to group homes and institutions, the most expensive housing option in the child welfare system and sometimes the most dangerous.

Nonprofit groups paid the since-shuttered National Deaf Academy more than \$600,000 to house 14 children from 2014 through 2016 – after a whistleblower suit claimed that a boy died after staff failed to provide him proper treatment for his diabetes and a girl was forced to crawl on the floor and sit in her own urine after staff refused to provide her with a wheelchair.

“They have incentive to not know

what’s going on in these homes, because if they did, they’d have to pull that kid and find a new home,” said Richard Wexler, executive director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform. “The more you overload a system with children who don’t need to be there, the less time they have to find the children really in danger.”

A system sabotaged by lies

Under ideal conditions, social workers should oversee no more than 14 children each month, according to Florida standards. A half-dozen financial reports published over the past six years speak about how child protective investigators in Florida have to deal with caseloads exceeding 20 children every month. The same is true of case managers, who follow up with children after they enter the system.

The larger their caseloads, the more likely they’ll have to cut corners.

Over the past six years, more than 300 child protection investigators, case managers and supervisors have been accused of lying or omitting information from their case files, a USA TODAY review of records from the DCF Office of Inspector General shows.

The workers lied about completing abuse investigations. They lied about interviewing parents, children and alleged molesters. They falsified home visits, embellished details and lied again when confronted.

Former investigations supervisor Beverlie Hyacinthe allegedly signed paperwork falsely claiming that investigators had assessed the safety of all the kids in a home after receiving a hotline call when they hadn’t. A child was abused in the home over the next 10 days until DCF received a second hotline call.

“Provisions were not made to provide for the safety of the children and the initial case was not fully investigated,” a DCF training manager concluded.

At least a dozen child welfare workers who confessed to lying or omitting important information from reports blamed their poor judgment on stress.

Christine Olivieri said she falsified information in a child protection investigation because she was “overloaded.” The child protective investigator in Palm Beach County said she was dealing with 29 cases, sheltering about 20 children, conducting home studies and appearing in court, all while continuing to receive new abuse allegations to investigate.

Even management felt the pressure. Brandy Canada, a supervisor of case managers for Youth and Family Associates in Hillsborough County, said she falsified case notes because she was overwhelmed from overseeing as many as 18 workers at a time, each with their own overgrowing caseloads.

“Many people were quitting or being transferred ... resulting in a high stress and hurry up and get it done mind set,” Canada told inspector general investigators in 2018. “I was not only supervising more than my unit, I was also on call, doing home visits and attending court hearings.”

Focusing on dollars

When Jackie Gonzalez took over as chief executive of Our Kids in September 2014, the agency, which serves Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys, was experiencing an influx of more than

400 kids and had run up a deficit of \$10.6 million.

Instead of appealing to the state for more money, Gonzalez focused on cutting costs, slashing a fifth of Our Kids’ payroll.

Our Kids subcontractors were left with insufficient funds to cover their burgeoning expenses, according to a study compiled by DCF. Caseworkers were forced to take on more children, prompting an exodus of experienced employees. More than 3 in 10 left their jobs in 2014.

Spending on foster parents declined by \$1.5 million from June 2013 to June 2016.

“Jackie (Gonzalez) cut foster parent mentoring,” said Denise Beeman-Sa-saiin, a foster mother who heads the South Florida Foster and Adoptive Parents Association. “She cut our support staff. She didn’t personally care if foster care went to nothing.”

Gonzalez said in an email to USA TODAY that “services were not cut for any of the children we were serving at the time.”

Lawsuits and DCF studies examined by USA TODAY and conversations with South Florida child welfare experts show the nonprofit group struggled to provide foster children with safe homes and adequate oversight.

At least one child was molested. Two others didn’t get specialized care and killed themselves.

Our Kids added only 19 foster homes from June 2013 to January 2016 to cope with an influx of more than 420 children.

In Key West, Our Kids placed a 3-year-old boy, identified only by his initials of L.B., in a crowded emergency shelter where he was sexually abused by an older boy.

The assault in March 2014 took a toll on L.B.’s mental health, according to allegations in a lawsuit filed on his behalf, and Our Kids compounded his problems by insisting on placing him with Raquel Fuentes.

A foster mother for only five months, Fuentes already had a bad reputation. Children’s Home Society of Florida, the Our Kids subcontractor that approved her license, expressed concerns about her ability to care for foster kids and refused to send her more. Court-appointed guardians for foster children in the Florida Keys reported that Fuentes used inappropriate punishment methods.

Our Kids officials didn’t respond to those red flags. The lawsuit claims that reports circulated that Fuentes punished L.B. by bathing him in cold water, putting him in time-out “for very long periods of time” and wearing masks to scare him. Within months, the boy began having vomiting episodes tied to stress, according to his doctor.

Our Kids removed L.B. at the beginning of August 2014. Our Kids did not have a chief executive at that time. Frances Allegra, who preceded Gonzalez, left at the end of March, and Gonzalez did not come on board until September.

L.B.’s mental health worsened over the ensuing months. Without therapeutic or behavioral training for his impulse control, he began “tearing things off the walls in his classroom, knocking things off the teacher’s desk, not listening to directions, drawing on the walls at home, and tearing apart his clothes and bedding,” the lawsuit says.

By November 2015, at just 5 years old, he was placed in a mental hospital.

The lawsuit was settled last year.

In 2018, Our Kids and its subcontractors still weren’t providing enough therapeutic foster homes and other services to help children cope with the abuse and neglect they suffered, according to claims in a lawsuit filed by Robert Latham, associate director of the Children and Youth Law Clinic at the University of Miami.

“The dramatic increase of children into the system after 2014 wasn’t the problem,” said Latham, who reached a settlement in the case last year. “The lack of follow-up, community services and support was the problem.”

Lauryn Martin-Everett and Naika Venant were troubled teens who never got the intensive therapy they needed, according to the lawsuit.

In December 2016, Lauryn tied a blue scarf around her neck and hanged herself from a doorway at the Florida Keys Youth Shelter.

A month later, Naika – in front of a Facebook audience – took her own life in the same way.



Lauryn



Naika

ELECTION 2020

Barr

Continued from Page 1A

the Justice Department to the white-hot middle of the partisan political cauldron.

Though the attorney general’s supporters laud him as a warrior of unrivaled power in Trump’s Cabinet, Democrats and some disenchanted Republicans have made Barr’s tenure yet another pointed referendum on Trump’s presidency.

On the campaign trail, the Democratic ticket of former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris has waged a double-barreled assault on the president and the attorney general, asserting that the Barr Justice Department “has turned into the president’s private law firm.”

“The most damaging thing that has happened so far is the politicization of the Justice Department,” Biden told an audience in North Carolina last month.

Biden’s critique has been joined by hundreds of Justice alums who served in both Democratic and Republican administrations, some of whom called for Barr to step down.

“I cannot think of another attorney general who has used the voice and powers of his office to advance the president’s chances of reelection in the way this attorney general has,” said Donald Ayer, who served as deputy attorney general in the George H.W. Bush administration. “Almost everything we see Barr doing appears to be directly calibrated and conceived as a way of managing the president’s electoral prospects.”

Michael Mukasey, who served as attorney general in the George W. Bush administration, calls the denunciations “pure rubbish.”

Mukasey said Barr’s tenure has been complicated by a president whose Twitter account has taken constant aim at the department’s operations, making the attorney general’s job “enormously difficult.”

Citing Barr’s disclosures to lawmakers that a long-awaited review of the Russia investigation – commissioned by Barr – would not be completed before Election Day, Mukasey said the attorney general has taken stands that are not in lock step with Trump.

The delay exposed a rare break between the attorney general and an increasingly displeased president, who had banked on the report to implicate Biden and other Obama administration officials in wrongdoing before next month’s election.

“When (Barr’s) actions are consistent with what the president wants, they say he’s doing the president’s bidding,” Mukasey said. “When it isn’t (consistent with the president), nobody talks about it.”

‘Riding a tiger’

Trump ramped up the political pressure this month, when he publicly called on his attorney general to use the power of his office against the president’s political rivals.

“Unless Bill Barr indicts these people for crimes, the greatest political crime in the history of our country,” Trump told Fox Business News, accusing Biden and former President Barack Obama of election interference, “then we’re going to get little satisfaction unless I win.”

Trump’s push has been met with silence from the attorney general, but it thrust the Justice Department deeper into the political fray.

“What the American people should never expect,” says David Laufman, a Justice official during the Obama administration, “is to see the weaponization of the criminal justice system to serve as an instrument of a president’s personal and political whims or grievances.”

Barr’s supporters point to the origins of the president’s pressure campaign as an example of the attorney general’s independence.

Trump’s comments came after the attorney general privately indicated that the Russia review, headed by Connecticut federal prosecutor John Durham, would not be released before the election.

The tension intensified after The Washington Post reported that a related Justice investigation was closed without producing criminal charges.

That review examined whether Obama administration officials improperly identified or “unmasked” former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn from intelligence materials documenting Flynn’s pre-inaugural contacts with a Russian ambassador.

Trump reacted bitterly, suggesting in



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Michael Mukasey

Former attorney general, who served in the George W. Bush administration, calls the denunciations “pure rubbish.”



“Barr has been riding a tiger throughout his tenure at the Justice Department. But he is not someone who flinches; he does not define himself by how others perceive him.”

Jonathan Turley

George Washington University law professor who has known Barr for at least three decades

an interview with conservative Newsmax TV that Barr’s job was not safe if the president won another term in November.

“I’m not happy,” Trump said, though it was “too early” to say whether he would retain the attorney general in a second term.

“The fact that nothing is being done with the Durham investigation before the election shows that the attorney general is standing on principle despite the comments of the president,” Mukasey said.

Jonathan Turley, a George Washington University law professor who has known Barr for at least three decades, said his friend has not only been tasked as the country’s chief law enforcement officer but also with managing a difficult boss.

“Barr has been riding a tiger throughout his tenure at the Justice Department,” Turley said. “But he is not someone who flinches; he does not define himself by how others perceive him.”

Standing with the president

Barr’s stand with the president has been most clearly articulated in a series of public speeches since he took office in February 2019.

When Trump was embroiled in an impeachment inquiry late last fall, Barr rebuked the president’s political opponents during an appearance before the conservative Federalist Society.

The attorney general claimed that Democrats were pursuing a “scorched earth, no-holds-barred resistance” in an attempt to “sabotage” Trump’s presidency.

He asserted that the “harassment” contravened the intent of the Constitution’s framers who meant to provide the office of the president with sweeping authority.

“The pursuit of scores of investigations and an avalanche of subpoenas is meant to incapacitate” the administration, Barr said in the biting partisan speech. “I am convinced that the deck has been stacked against the executive.”

Last month at an event hosted by Hillsdale College in Washington, he defended his intervention this year in criminal cases involving former Trump aides Roger Stone and Flynn, claiming that career prosecutors can “sometimes become headhunters.”

Barr overruled line prosecutors by recommending a lighter sentence for Stone; he sought to drop the prosecution of Flynn, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian ambassador.

At the Hillsdale appearance, the attorney general – echoing the president’s aversion to statewide lockdowns as a defense against the coronavirus – compared the restrictions to slavery.

“Other than slavery, which was a different kind of restraint, this is the greatest intrusion on civil liberties in American history,” he said, touching off a firestorm of criticism from civil rights advocates.

Neil Kinkopf, a Georgia State University law professor, was in the audience during the attorney general’s appearance last November at the Federalist Society and recalled thinking that Barr could have been talking directly to him.

Kinkopf testified at Barr’s Senate confirmation hearing almost a year before, warning that Barr had long advocated presidential power of “breathtaking scope, subject to negligible limits.”

“This is not the presidency our founders contemplated,” Kinkopf said then. “This is not the presidency our Constitution meant to embody.”

Kinkopf’s view has darkened since his testimony in January 2019.

“It’s even worse than I thought it was going to be,” the professor said.

Turley, who testified at the same hearing in support of the nominee, said it shouldn’t have been a surprise to anyone that Barr was an advocate for expansive presidential authority. Though it would be wrong, Turley said, to suggest that Barr shaped his views to suit the whims of a president.

Ahead of final debate, Trump lashes out at moderator

David Jackson

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The next (and final debate) isn’t until Thursday, but President Donald Trump is already trying to pressure and intimidate the moderator, NBC News White House correspondent Kristen Welker.

“She’s always been terrible & unfair, just like most of the Fake News reporters, but I’ll still play the game,” Trump tweeted Saturday. “The people know!”

Welker

Thursday’s debate is crucial for Trump, who refused to participate in an Oct. 15 showdown with Biden because organizers wanted a virtual debate in light of the president’s COVID-19 diagnosis.

Trump enters the Nashville, Tennessee, debate trailing Biden in pre-election polls both nationally and in key states, and this likely will be his last chance to reach a vast audience before Election Day on Nov. 3.

Welker hasn’t commented, but colleagues and competitors testified to her fairness and professionalism. They said she will do great moderating Thursday’s showdown between Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

“Kristen is one of the toughest, fairest reporters you’ll ever meet,” tweeted Kathryn Watson, a White House reporter for CBS News.

In addition to the tweet, Trump went after Welker during a Saturday night rally in Janesville, Wisconsin.

“She’s extraordinarily unfair, but that’s all right,” Trump said before launching into a criticism of NBC News anchor Savannah Guthrie, who moderated his town hall Thursday night in Miami.

OPINION

Hear from USA TODAY'S Editorial Board members about their decision to endorse a candidate this year and why they chose Joe Biden: [usatoday.com/opinion](https://www.usatoday.com/opinion)

Our View: Elect Biden. Reject Trump.

In 2016, we broke tradition in urging you not to vote for Donald Trump. In this extraordinary 2020 election, for the first time we endorse a presidential nominee.

Four years ago, the Editorial Board — an ideologically and demographically diverse group of journalists that is separate from the news staff and operates by consensus — broke with tradition and took sides in the presidential race for the first time since USA TODAY was founded in 1982. We urged readers not to vote for Donald Trump, calling the Republican nominee unfit for office because he lacked the “temperament, knowledge, steadiness and honesty that America needs from its presidents.” We stopped short, however, of an outright endorsement of Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee. This year the Editorial Board unanimously supports the election of Joe Biden, who offers a shaken nation a harbor of calm and competence.

Polls show that more than 90% of voters have decided between Biden and Trump, and nothing will change their minds. This editorial is for those of you who are still uncertain about which candidate to vote for, or whether to vote at all. It’s also for those who settled on Trump but are having last-minute doubts.

Maybe you backed Trump the last time because you hoped he’d shake things up in Washington or bring back blue-collar jobs. Maybe you liked his populist, anti-elitist message. Maybe you couldn’t stomach the idea of supporting a Democrat as polarizing as Clinton. Maybe you cast a ballot for a minor party candidate, or just stayed home.

Now, two weeks until Election Day, we suggest you consider a variation of the question Republican Ronald Reagan asked voters when he ran for president in 1980: Is America better off now than it was four years ago?

Beset by disease, economic suffering, a racial reckoning and natural disasters fueled by a changing climate, the nation is dangerously off course. We spoke to dozens of people in Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, battleground states that helped propel Trump into the White House in 2016. Many declined to comment, citing a general disgust with the election or fear of speaking out publicly. While some said they were personally better off, most of those willing to talk on camera expressed anguish and dismay about the nation’s direction:

• “I am definitely not better off today than I was four years ago. I think America in general is much worse off today now that Donald Trump has unhooked us from so many of our traditions and our safeguards. ... He is trying to tear down the Affordable Care Act, which is criminal,” Anita Giltner of Holland, Michigan, told us.

• “The way (Trump) has handled (COVID-19) so far has just been gross mismanagement. ... Trump has repealed a bunch of environmental restrictions, which is really important to me because my age group ... are the ones that are going to inherit the Earth,” said Daniel Viar, of Rochester Hills, Michigan, who didn’t vote in 2016.

• “There’s not a lot of food around, there’s not a lot of money around, people are getting evicted. ... I just wish the United States could pull together. ... Why do we got to fight against each other? It’s too much,” said Lucinda Young of Toledo, Ohio.

• “You have a president who is ... mocking people, attacking people on Twitter. ... We’re dealing with diversity and racism right now in our country, and we need a new leader who stands up and faces these challenges, like Joe Biden. ... I think it’s time for a change,” said Mecca Vaughn of Milwaukee.

Yes, Lucinda, it is too much. Yes, Mecca, it is time for a change.

Crisis management

When Trump was elected as the nation’s first president without previous experience in government or the military, we hoped that he would become, as he promised during the 2016 campaign, “more disciplined” and “so presidential that you people will be so bored.” After all, when you are a passenger on an airplane, you root for the pilot, even one who has never been in a cockpit before.

Whether you are a pilot or the president, the most important part of your job is crisis management. But when confronted with an emergency — COVID-19, the biggest public health threat in a century — Trump didn’t land the plane safely on the Hudson River. His shambolic response to the coronavirus pandemic has inflated a national death toll that is equivalent to the crashes of more than 1,000 Boeing-737 jetliners.

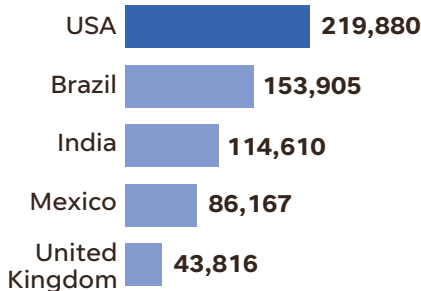
The United States, with 4% of the world’s population, has 20% of its reported coronavirus deaths. If America is at war against COVID-19 and “I’m a wartime president,” as Trump declared in March, the invisible enemy is winning and now has even penetrated



MIKE THOMPSON / ILLUSTRATION BASED ON USA TODAY STAFF PHOTO

An American tragedy

Countries with the most reported COVID-19 deaths:



SOURCE Johns Hopkins University
Data as of 2:30 p.m. ET Monday

the White House grounds.

There is little doubt that Biden would have handled the crisis more capably. He surely would not have become a super-spreader of coronavirus misinformation. Back in January, in a column for USA TODAY, the former vice president warned that the novel virus emerging in China “will get worse before it gets better” and that Trump is “the worst possible person to lead our country through a global health challenge.” During the campaign, Biden has modeled mask wearing and other public health recommendations that Trump has flouted while downplaying the threat. A Biden administration would follow the science and build trust in emerging vaccines.

Character and core values

It’s no secret that the Editorial Board disagrees with Trump not just on his approach to the coronavirus but also on fundamental issues, from health care and climate change to immigration and trade. Policy differences, however, are not the reason behind our first-ever presidential endorsement. Diverse views, even ones we think are wrongheaded, are a staple of American politics and something to celebrate.

If this were a choice between two capable major party nominees who happened to have opposing ideas, we wouldn’t choose sides. Different voters have different concerns. But this is not a normal election, and these are not normal times. This year, character, competence and credibility are on the ballot. Given Trump’s refusal to guarantee a peaceful transfer of power if he loses, so, too, is the future of America’s democracy.

For nearly four decades, the Editorial Board has stood for certain core values: truth, accountability, civility in public discourse, opposition to racism, common-ground solutions to the nation’s problems, and steadfast support for First Amendment rights. These aren’t partisan issues, or at least they shouldn’t be.

President Trump has trampled each of these principles, making more than 20,000 false or misleading statements, ducking responsibility for his actions, spewing streams of invective at his critics, trafficking in racial fearmongering, governing more as the leader of the red states than of the United States, and relentlessly attacking the free press.

Everything about Biden’s nearly half-century political career suggests he would do a far better job of respecting these values. “We need to revive the spirit of bipartisanship in this country, the spirit of being able to work with one another,” the Democratic nominee said in a recent speech in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Biden is a worthy antidote to Trump’s unbounded narcissism. Having surmounted heartbreaking personal loss — his first wife and year-old daughter died in a car crash, and his son Beau died of brain cancer — Biden exudes decency and empathy. Ask yourself: Can you imagine Joe Biden denigrating servicemembers as losers? Cozying up to autocrats abroad? Shaking down a foreign leader for dirt on a political opponent?

All politicians, of course, have flaws, and Biden is no exception. He turns 78 next month and, like the November foliage in New England, is somewhat past peak.

For someone billed as a foreign policy expert, he managed to be wrong about both the Persian Gulf War (he opposed the 1991 effort to expel Saddam Hussein’s forces from Kuwait) and the Iraq War (he supported the 2003 U.S. invasion, which turned into a debacle). His handling of Anita Hill’s sexual harassment claim against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas in 1991, when Biden was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has not aged well. He is capable of cringeworthy gaffes, and his sentences can wander off into uncharted territory.

Nevertheless, Biden is an experienced hand with working-class roots who understands the American dream. He knows the levers of power and how to wield them. He has a history of working across the aisle on such issues as health care, racial justice and the environment. He has the knowledge and the personality to begin repairing America’s tattered reputation around the world.

Maybe you’ve heard Republican commentators trying to paint Biden as a puppet of far-left radicals. But if he was able to resist such unaffordable progressive ideas as “Medicare for All” and the “Green New Deal” during the heat of the Democratic primaries, it is hard to envision him embracing them once he is in the White House.

An extraordinary moment

Biden is well positioned to repair the wreckage Trump has made of the federal government, from the foreign service to the science agencies Trump has tried to politicize. As vice president in the Obama administration, Biden played a central role in the last economic recovery and is equipped to handle another one.

Even before the pandemic struck, Trump did no better than the Obama-Biden administration on job creation, the stock market and economic growth. (Remember his promise to pay off the national debt in eight years? It’s now \$27 trillion, up more than \$7 trillion from four years ago.) Biden knows that the recovery process will require, first and foremost, a comprehensive national response to the COVID-19 crisis that has upended Americans’ lives and left large sectors of the economy reeling.

This extraordinary moment in the history of our nation requires an extraordinary response. With his plans, his personnel picks, his experience and his humanity, Joe Biden can help lead the United States out of this morass and into the future. Your vote can help make that happen.

Will this endorsement have any effect on what you read about the campaign in USA TODAY’s news reports? No. Will it cause the Editorial Board to pull its punches if Biden were to become president? Also no.

We may never endorse a presidential nominee again. In fact, we hope we’ll never have to.



“I think America in general is much worse off today now that Donald Trump has unhooked us from so many of our traditions and our safeguards.”

Anita Giltner
of Holland, Michigan



“You have a president who is ... mocking people, attacking people on Twitter.”

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“I just wish the United States could pull together. ... Why do we got to fight against each other?”

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of Toledo, Ohio

OPINION

WANT TO COMMENT? Have Your Say at letters@usatoday.com, [@usatodayopinion](https://twitter.com/usatodayopinion) on Twitter and facebook.com/usatodayopinion. Comments are edited for length and clarity. Content submitted to USA TODAY may appear in print, digital or other forms. For letters, include name, address and phone number. Letters may be mailed to 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA, 22108.

Opposing View: Four more years

For the last four years, I have stood with President Trump as he kept his promises to the American people. Reelect him to renew America’s promise.

Mike Pence

When Donald Trump announced his candidacy for president, he launched a movement to restore the promise of America.

Since taking office, President Trump has delivered record-breaking results for all Americans. For decades, president after president, Republican and Democrat alike, failed to execute the agenda that they promised voters. For the last four years, I have stood with President Trump as he kept his promises to the American people, even when facing unprecedented attacks from the permanent Washington political class and their allies in the mainstream media.

President Trump delivered historic tax cuts and tax reform, majorly rolled back burdensome federal regulations, unleashed America’s energy sector, and fought for free and fair trade.

Throughout our first three years, businesses large and small created nearly 7 million jobs, including 500,000 manufacturing jobs. Unemployment rates for African Americans, Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans hit their lowest levels ever, and we achieved the lowest unemployment rate for women in 65 years.

President Trump delivered America-First trade reform. He replaced NAFTA with the USMCA — the most significant and balanced trade agreement in history. President Trump oversaw the world’s greatest economy before the coronavirus struck our shores. Because of the strong foundation established through



President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence at the Republican National Convention on Aug. 24 in Charlotte, North Carolina. CHRIS CARLSON/AP

his economic policies before the global pandemic, America is on track to bounce back bigger and better than ever before.

President Trump led a historic whole-of-government approach to combat this devastating pandemic. He took bold and decisive action by suspending travel from China. This example of strong leadership saved countless American lives, and we launched one of the largest mobilizations of public and private sector resources since World War II.

President Trump secured direct economic payments to help the countless Americans who are hurting due to the pandemic. The president spearheaded the Paycheck Protection Program, which saved small businesses that em-

ploy 51 million Americans.

Thanks to President Trump’s Operation Warp Speed — a massive public health endeavor unlike any in history — our country is on track to have a safe and effective vaccination by year’s end.

When President Trump and I took office, America’s standing as the leader of the free world was threatened. Our military was depleted by the Obama-Biden administration. Radical Islamic terrorism was on the rise. Four years later, we have met every challenge head on, re-establishing American dominance.

President Trump rebuilt our military to keep Americans safe. He made it a priority to rebuild our national defense, securing nearly \$2.2 trillion in total military funding during his first three years in office. Additionally, President Trump

delivered the largest military pay raise in a decade for our brave warriors. A strong and respected American military is helping achieve peace through strength around the world.

Rather than sending pallets of cash to Iranian mullahs, President Trump got America out of the Iran nuclear deal and eliminated the world’s most dangerous terrorists on the battlefield. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Qasem Soleimani are gone.

Here on our shores, President Donald Trump has stood every day with the men and women who serve on the Thin Blue Line of law enforcement, and we always will. President Trump and I know that we don’t have to choose between supporting law enforcement and supporting our minority communities.

Under President Trump’s leadership, we have been doing both for 3 1/2 years. But Joe Biden has voiced support for cutting and redirecting police funding, and he would double down on policies that have led to violence across our major cities. When you withdraw support for those who protect and serve, you only embolden those who would do harm to our families and our communities.

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a time of unprecedented challenges. Thankfully, we have a president with the toughness, energy and resolve to ensure that America’s best days still lie ahead. A vote to reelect President Trump is a vote for a safer, stronger and more prosperous America.

Mike Pence is vice president of the United States.

THE BACKSTORY

The Editorial Board endorsed Biden. Here’s why.



Nicole Carroll
Editor-in-chief
USA TODAY

In its 38 years of existence, the USA TODAY Editorial Board has never endorsed a candidate for president. The nonpartisan board hasn’t recommended a nominee. Until now.

Today, the USA TODAY Editorial Board, which is separate from the news department, endorsed Joe Biden for president.

“We don’t do this eagerly,” said editorial page editor Bill Sternberg. “We hope we don’t have to do it again, but it seems like one of those break-glass moments where there’s a clear and present danger and there’s a clear choice.”

Endorsements, all editorials, aren’t meant to lecture. They’re meant to put forth a well-considered viewpoint, grounded in the facts, to spur conversation. The closest the board ever came to an endorsement was in 2016, when it urged voters to reject Donald Trump, but did not endorse any other candidate.

As editor-in-chief, I oversee the newsroom, but I do not sit on the Editorial Board. News and editorial are separate groups, working independently of each other. News reporters provide facts, background and context. Editorial Board members offer all that, but also their educated opinions and thought leadership. The two groups do not have any influence over each other.

The nonpartisan USA TODAY Editorial Board is known for being balanced in its views. That doesn’t mean the editors avoid sharp opinions, it means they offer a variety of viewpoints, including today’s Opposing View by Vice President Mike Pence. Nonpartisan means the board has no formal or informal connections to either the Republican or Democratic parties. Traditionally, it has

supported policies put forth by both parties.

Sternberg said the board hasn’t endorsed in the past because major parties have put up qualified candidates with political differences.

That’s not so this year, the endorsement says:

“If this were a choice between two capable major party nominees who happened to have opposing ideas, we wouldn’t choose sides. Different voters have different concerns. But this is not a normal election, and these are not normal times. This year, character, competence and credibility are on the ballot. Given Trump’s refusal to guarantee a peaceful transfer of power if he loses, so, too, is the future of America’s democracy.”

Sternberg said he also considered the core values of the board: “Honesty, accountability, civil discourse, common sense, common-ground solutions to the nation’s problems, opposition to racism, steadfast support for the First Amendment. These aren’t partisan values. They shouldn’t be partisan values. But in each case, Donald Trump has trampled on those values, and Joe Biden would respect those values.”

The 10-member Editorial Board includes conservatives, liberals and centrists. Eileen Rivers served in military intelligence in Kuwait. Thuan Le Elston came to America as a child refugee of the Vietnam War. David Mastio moved to Washington in 1994 to be part of the Republican Revolution. Sternberg was the longtime USA TODAY Washington editor before moving to the opinion department in 2005.

Mastio, the deputy opinion editor, said he hopes people consider the board’s centrist, nonpartisan track record as they read today’s endorsement.

“We’re not an ideological Editorial Board out to impose our views on other people,” he said. “We’re saying this is a national emergency. This is a president like no other who has been uniquely awful, both personally and professionally. And we need to do something about it.”

Today’s Opposing View by Pence focuses on, among other things, the economy under the Trump administration, tax cuts, trade reform and the president’s support for the military and law enforcement.

“There is no doubt that 2020 has been a time of unprecedented challenges,” he wrote. “Thankfully, we have a president with the toughness, energy, and resolve to ensure America’s best days still lie ahead.”

Rivers said it’s good to challenge the thinking of the Editorial Board and is proud of our history of an “Opposing View.”

“That makes the discussion richer,” she said. “People look to the editorial page to figure out maybe not what their perspective should be, but to get an idea of other intelligent perspectives.”

“Maybe their view will be more aligned with our Opposing View and that’s OK.”

Ultimately, Rivers hopes the endorsement helps people think beyond themselves.

“Ask yourself,” she said, “Are you better off than you were four years ago? And if the answer to that for you is yes, then think about the people for whom that is no and think about how this president has put us in that situation.”

And the board wants to make this clear: Just because they endorse Biden now, that will have no bearing on how they cover him moving forward.

“We’ll continue to question him and to challenge him,” Elston said. “It’s what is good for the country that is at stake, not Biden.”

Mastio, a forceful conservative voice on the board, puts it more plainly: “It makes me ill to endorse a Democrat. And I can guarantee you that on Day One, I will be among Biden’s biggest critics.”

The board vigorously debates issues,

and only takes a new position, or changes an existing position, when at least eight of the 10 agree. (For the endorsement, the vote was unanimous.)

Mastio said that means there’s never an opinion that hasn’t been examined skeptically from the other side and that the weakest arguments are discarded: “Having people who disagree as a core part of our Editorial Board, it makes the editorials that result stronger and more reality-based.”

It also means that the opinion editors look for a diversity of columns to publish on current events. The nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court is a good example. In the past few weeks that includes a column urging people not to attack Judge Barrett’s religious beliefs and Barrett’s former students writing that the nation could not ask for a more qualified candidate. Conversely, another writer argued that if Barrett is confirmed on the court, the Affordable Care Act will be ruled unconstitutional, and yet another wrote that Republicans are using a deeply unfair process to confirm Barrett.

There are some who say that editorial boards are outdated, and that media organizations should not offer opinions as readers are confused between editorial pages and straight news. Across the USA TODAY Network, local newspapers have made their own decisions about whether to endorse or not, at all levels of elections.

Sternberg defends the value of a diverse, nonpartisan board.

“People see things on the internet, where they don’t know what or who to believe, where it’s coming from or the credibility,” Sternberg said. “A newspaper editorial board properly executed can be a voice of authority, of fact-based information, a voice without a partisan ax to grind or without ulterior motives other than what’s best for the citizenry and what’s best for the country.”

To receive this column as a newsletter, visit newsletters.usatoday.com and subscribe to The Backstory.

DEAR 1960s, YOU HAD YOUR DECADE, NOW WE'RE MOVING ON.

Smokestacks and rivers catching fire are yesteryear's news. The factories in this country are built to the highest standards and are among the cleanest and greenest in the world. We can have a healthy economy and a healthy environment. In fact, we can't have either without the other. Let's make it here. And let's make it better while we're at it, leaving the air a little purer and the water a little cleaner than when we set up shop. This ain't your granddad's planet. It's not yours either. It always belongs to the next generation. Let's make it here.

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TACO BELL STEPS TO PLATE WITH TACOS FOR STEALS

For the ninth year in a row, Taco Bell will give away free Doritos Locos tacos if a base is stolen during the World Series with its “Steal a Base, Steal a Taco” promotion. But there’s a change from past years that will allow members of Taco Bell’s new loyalty program the chance to get a freebie faster. This year, Taco Bell Loyalty Rewards members can get early access to the free taco “within hours after the first base is stolen in the World Series via a code on the Taco Bell app and to have their own unique redemption period,” a news release said. For new members to get the app freebie they have to create an account by 8 p.m. EST Oct. 20.



MARK THIESSEN/AP

CONOCO TO BUY SHALE PRODUCER CONCHO

ConocoPhillips is buying shale producer Concho Resources in an all-stock deal valued at \$9.7 billion making it a major presence in the Permian Basin, the top-producing oil field in the U.S. The combined company, if approved, would be among the largest independent U.S. oil producers, with production of more than 1.5 million barrels of oil equivalent per day. The combination could help the companies achieve \$500 million in annual cost and capital savings by 2022.

CHINA’S ECONOMY SHOWING SOME SIGNS OF REBOUNDED

China’s shaky economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic is gaining strength as consumers return to shopping malls and auto dealerships as other countries experience contraction. Growth in the world’s second-largest economy accelerated to 4.9% over a year earlier in the three months ending in September, up from the previous quarter’s 3.2%, official data showed Monday.

Dow Jones Industrial Avg.



MONDAY MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG
Dow Jones Industrial Avg.	28,195.42	410.89
S&P 500	3,426.92	56.89
Nasdaq composite	11,478.88	192.67
T-note, 10-year yield	0.772	0.026

SOURCES USA TODAY RESEARCH, BLOOMBERG



Treasury rates

Rates as of Monday market close.		
	Rate	Week ago
1 mo. T-bill	0.09%	0.10%
3 mo. T-bill	0.10%	0.10%
5-yr. T-note	0.34%	0.44%
10-yr T-note	0.78%	0.79%
30-yr T-bond	1.55%	1.58%

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Valencia oranges tumble down a conveyor after being washed at Peace River Citrus packinghouse in Fort Meade, Fla. ERNST PETERS/USA TODAY NETWORK

Citrus growers feeling squeeze of rising costs

Low farm prices may mean a tough season ahead

Kevin Bouffard
Lakeland Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

LAKELAND, Fla. —Florida citrus growers are caught in a vice between low farm prices and high production costs, contributing to the downward spiral in the state’s annual harvest of oranges and grapefruit. Growers worried last season that historically low farm prices on the cash market would force many growers to cut back on caretaking costs, resulting in less fruit to harvest. That worry may play out this season as the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday forecast a 15% decline in the 2020-21 orange harvest and a 7% decline in grapefruit. “I’m hoping what we’re not seeing is a trend of lower fruit prices and growers putting less money in their groves,” said Ned Hancock, an Avon Park grow-

See CITRUS, Page 2B



“The impact of (previous) less than break-even prices is negatively affecting the number of boxes we can grow,” says grower Marty McKenna. USA TODAY NETWORK

The USDA estimates Florida growers will produce just 57 million boxes of oranges, the lowest orange crop since the the 1946-47 season.

Pandemic may mean bigger dental bills

Nathan Bomey
USA TODAY

Millions of Americans are delaying dental appointments over concerns about coronavirus infection, and that’s likely to trigger increased fees for patients, job cuts for workers and fewer family practices. When the pandemic began this spring, essentially all dentists temporarily shut down for all but emergency appointments, putting hundreds of thousands of Americans out of work. While 99% of dentists have reopened, the number of patients visiting offices remains about 20% below usual levels, according to the American Dental Association. And dentists don’t expect it to improve much more anytime soon de-

The ADA estimates the average dentist is spending an extra \$15 to \$20 per patient related to COVID-19 prevention.

See DENTAL BILLS, Page 2B

DEAR AMERICA, LET’S MANUFACTURE A BETTER FUTURE. LET’S MAKE IT HERE.

Citrus

Continued from Page 1B

er and chairman of the Florida Citrus Commission. “I think to a small degree, that’s what happened this year.”

Marty McKenna, a Lake Wales, grower and citrus commissioner, agreed.

“I think that the impact of less than break-even prices (in previous seasons) is negatively affecting the number of boxes we can grow,” said McKenna, referring to Friday’s USDA estimate.

The USDA’s initial estimate for this season reported Florida growers will produce just 57 million boxes of oranges, the lowest orange crop since 52.1 million boxes in the 1946-47 season. That split between 23 million boxes of early and mid-season oranges, harvested from October to March, and 34 million boxes of Valencia oranges harvested from March to June.

The USDA projected the 2020-21 grapefruit crop at 4.5 million boxes, the lowest crop since the 2019-20 season, the earliest reported statistics from the USDA.

The annual Florida citrus crop has been declining since the arrival of the fatal bacterial disease citrus greening in 2005. Infected trees have lower fruit production and smaller fruit sizes, both of which contribute to declining box totals.

If this season’s USDA forecast proves accurate by the end of the harvest season in June, the Florida orange crop will have declined 76% since the state’s growers produced 242 million boxes in the 2003-04 season.

Meanwhile, grove caretaking costs needed to fight citrus greening disease have more than tripled in the past 15 years.

Florida citrus growers paid an average of \$1,847 per acre for grove caretaking in the 2019-20 season, according to a June report from Ariel Singerman, an economist at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. At that price, growers need \$2.01 per pound solids for early-mid oranges and \$2.31 overall just to break even.

Before the USDA forecast, the state’s juice processors, who buy 95% of the annual orange crop, were offering about \$2 per pound solids for early-mid oranges, according to Hancock and McKenna.

Grove caretaking costs needed to fight citrus greening disease have more than tripled in the past 15 years.

Juice processors pay growers based on pound solids, the quantity of juice with a specific sugar content squeezed from the fruit. A gallon of orange juice has about one pound solid.

A \$2 farm price is a significant improvement from 2019-20 prices, but it’s still not a profitable price that will keep growers in business for future seasons, Hancock and McKenna said. It won’t reverse the downward spiral of cutting back on grove caretaking, resulting in lower fruit production.

“My biggest fear is if the (farm) price can’t respond to where our costs have been for the last couple years, this trend will continue,” Hancock said.

Citrus growers need higher farm prices after an unprofitable 2019-20 season for the industry.

Last season’s total citrus crop value plunged 19% to \$726.7 million from \$902.4 million in 2018-19, the USDA reported. That’s based on the sales of all Florida citrus crops – oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and tangelos.

Cutting back on grove caretaking has been amplified by the ongoing impact on tree health following Hurricane Irma in 2017. The storm hit before the USDA had completed its crop survey, but Florida citrus officials estimated Irma resulted in a 50% decline in the 2017-18 crop.

McKenna noted the USDA report showed the biggest orange harvest declines in the southern production region of Florida’s citrus belt, where Irma had its greatest impact.

The USDA projected 2020-21 orange production in the southern region at 15.3 million boxes, down 20% from last season.

Despite this season’s historically low crop, McKenna and Hancock expressed reluctance that it will force Florida juice processors to offer higher 2020-21 farm prices.

Study: College students can fall victim to misinformation, too

Nathan Bomey
USA TODAY

Don’t fall for the premise that young people, otherwise known as “digital natives,” are immune to misinformation.

That’s the message from Stanford University researchers who say their new study provides further evidence that college students are prone to being deceived online.

The new report from the Stanford History Education Group shows that 2020’s first-time voters often struggle to sort fact from fiction despite their technical prowess on smartphones and social media.

The researchers found that most sophomores, juniors and seniors were easily fooled by misinformation, even when they were given the time and resources to fact-check the material.

The study adds to “a mountain of evidence that students struggle to evaluate the content that streams across their devices,” said Joel Breakstone, director of the Stanford History Education Group and co-author of the study.

The study gave two separate tasks to 263 students – a mix of sophomores, juniors and seniors – at a “large state university on the East Coast”:

- 1) Assess the trustworthiness of a



Even those who are technically savvy with their phones can be victimized by misinformation. GETTY IMAGES

news story.

- 2) Evaluate the credibility of an informational website.

The students were allowed to use the internet to complete their evaluations.

But they “struggled” with the tasks, the researchers reported. “They employed inefficient strategies that made them vulnerable to forces, whether satirical or malevolent, that threaten informed citizenship.”

In the first task, two-thirds of students failed to identify that the story was published on a satirical website and was not reliable.

In the second task, more than 9 in 10

Dental bills

Continued from Page 1B

spite significant safety measures they’ve rolled out to protect themselves and patients from COVID-19.

Spending on dental care could fall by up to 38% in 2020 and 20% in 2021, the ADA projects. Of dentists surveyed by the trade group, more than 46% said their patient volume was down at least 15% from usual levels during the week of Oct. 5.

About 15% to 20% of regular dental patients say “they’re not going to go back to the dentist until there’s a vaccine or a proven treatment,” said Marko Vujicic, chief economist of the ADA.

Katia Lee is among them.

Lee, a self-employed professional photographer in Columbia, South Carolina, hasn’t gone to the dentist since before the pandemic began, in part because she doesn’t want to risk getting infected and passing it to her 76-year-old mother.

“The practice I go to, they are lovely, don’t get me wrong – I really like my dentist and my dental hygienist,” she said. “But I know at least half of them have families – that means you’re trusting not just them but their kids, their husbands, that’s why it’s so scary. I have to trust everybody else to keep myself safe.”

With COVID-19, can I visit the dentist?

In August, the World Health Organization angered dentists by advising that “routine nonessential oral health care – which usually includes oral health check-ups, dental cleanings and preventive care – be delayed until there has been sufficient reduction in COVID-19 transmission rates from community transmission to cluster cases or according to official recommendations at national, sub-national or local level.”

The ADA said it “respectfully yet strongly disagrees” with the WHO’s guidance, pointing to numerous safety measures dentists have set up to reduce the risk of transmission, steps advised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Those measures include heightened use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as N95 masks and surgical masks, disposable gowns, air purifiers, cleaning solutions, temperature checks, hand-washing and social distancing.

Dental industry leaders have said they’re not aware of any documented cases of COVID-19 outbreaks stemming from dental offices, but they acknowledge that patients remain concerned about opening their mouths wide in the presence of others for extended periods of time.

“I know I would rather go into a dental office than a restaurant,” said Scott Asnis, founder of Dental365, a network of dentists based in New York.



Caring Smiles Family Dentistry dental hygienist Adrienne Vasquez puts on her personal protective equipment before seeing patient Jenny Grondin in West Bloomfield, Mich., in June. KELLY JORDAN / USA TODAY NETWORK

Consolidation coming

If patient volume remains at current levels for a few more months, dentists say they’ll give serious consideration to raising their fees, including for insured patients, as well as cutting jobs or selling their practices, the ADA said.

“We’re at a very important next couple of months,” said Vujicic, the ADA economist. “I do think we will see additional layoffs and some exits in the market. It’s suggesting to me that it’s not a sustainable situation.”

Lee, said that even if it’s safe to go back, it’ll be hard for her to justify going to the dentist since she doesn’t have dental insurance and the struggling economy makes her hesitant to spend hundreds of dollars on an appointment.

When they temporarily shut down, about 9 in 10 dentists applied for some form of financial assistance from the federal government, including forgivable loans, and the “vast majority” received some, according to the ADA.

But they’re still hurting. The ADA estimated that the average dentist is spending an extra \$15 to \$20 per patient due to measures related to COVID-19 prevention. Some pass those costs along to patients through fee hikes.

Dentists are also unable to see as many patients as normal due to the extra time they need to devote to cleaning and spacing out patients to ensure they don’t come into contact with each other.

The upshot is that family dental practices are struggling the most since they are unable to spread out the costs of PPE. Industry leaders and analysts say dentists are increasingly likely to sell their family practices to private equity companies or other investors.

“To a lot of dentists that’s an attractive way to go,” said Brandon Couillard, a Jefferies stock analyst who tracks dental service providers. The pandemic “will make it more difficult for the single office practitioner to remain economical,” he said.

Asnis, whose practice has more than 50 locations, said he’s being flooded

students failed to realize that the website purporting to provide unbiased information on the minimum wage had actually been established by a public relations firm funded by an interest group of restaurants that opposes increases to the minimum wage.

In many cases, students attempting to validate the information did not visit any other websites, choosing to trust the material they were presented based on the apparent credibility of the site’s design or its unsubstantiated claims.

The Stanford researchers advocated for incorporating lessons on source validation and basic fact-checking skills into regular coursework.

“We’ve got to do something about this,” said Sam Wineburg, the lead researcher on the study, founder of the Stanford History Education Group and author of “Why Learn History (When It’s Already on Your Phone).”

Nadav Ziv, co-author of the study, said students are too trusting of the information they scroll through on their smartphones.

“People somehow expect these platforms to do the work for them,” Ziv said. “We can’t rely on tech companies to do the work of fact-checking for us no matter what platform, whether it’s Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, etc. because information spreads faster than any ability to moderate it.”

with inquiries from dentists seeking to potentially join his network.

“Everyone in this area is wanting to join group practices, and it’s happening throughout the country,” he said. “I’ve never had more dentists reach out to me than I have since June.”

To be sure, the move toward group practices and private equity ownership was underway before the pandemic, in part because younger dentists with a lot of student debt aren’t as interested in taking on the financial burden of launching their own practice and handling office processes such as payroll.

One increasingly popular option is for dentists to join dental support organizations, or DSOs, which provide back-office support for tasks like human resources and billing.

Emmet Scott, president of the Association of Dental Support Organizations, said DSOs are appealing to dentists who want to focus their time primarily on care.

Without support services, “they sit there doing crowns and fillings all days and then doing payroll on Friday evenings,” he said. “I think that drives more consolidation.”

Will pent-up demand help?

As anyone who’s ever had a cavity will know, the longer you put off an appointment, the worse it gets. Which is one reason why dentists have reported a quick uptick in patient volume in recent months after they began reopening.

But there is lingering concern about what will happen once they’ve satisfied pent-up demand for patients who were forced to defer treatment during the shutdown period.

“Volumes in dental offices hasn’t fully bounced back, and it’s beginning to flatline or taper,” Couillard said.

Meanwhile, dentists are becoming more likely to embrace new avenues for doing business.

One option is that dentists may get involved in distributing COVID-19 vaccines. About 3 in 4 are willing to vaccinate patients or would consider it, according to ADA polling.

AMERICA'S MARKETS

ALL THE MARKET ACTION IN REAL TIME
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DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE

-410.89	Closing: 28,195.42 Change: -1.4% YTD % Chg: -1.2%
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MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR

Sector	Close	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Technology	118.90	-2.22	+5.7%	+29.7%
Consumer discret.	150.97	-1.88	+6.7%	+20.4%
Telecom	67.13	-1.10	+3.8%	+9.3%
Materials	65.50	-0.77	+3.6%	+6.6%
Health care	106.21	-1.71	+2.9%	+4.3%
Consumer staples	65.31	-0.86	+3.9%	+3.7%
Industrials	80.59	-1.01	+6.2%	-1.1%
Utilities	63.46	-0.54	+10.1%	-1.8%
Financials	24.61	-0.38	+2.8%	-20.0%
Energy	29.55	-0.64	-7.6%	-50.8%

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Wstn Digital (WDC)	40.92	+2.98	+7.9	-35.0
United Airlines Hldg (UAL)	35.50	+1.34	+3.9	-59.7
Tapstry Inc (TPR)	20.06	+5.3	+2.7	-25.6
Under Armour Inc C (UA)	11.56	+2.6	+2.3	-39.7
Micron Tech (MU)	52.63	+1.02	+2.0	-2.1

S&P 500 • STANDARD & POOR'S

-56.89	Closing: 3,426.92 Change: -1.6% YTD % Chg: +6.1%
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MARKET NOTEBOOK

Issues	NYSE	NASDAQ
Advancing	625	909
Declining	1,932	2,172
Unchanged	70	177
Total	2,627	3,258
Issues at		109
New 52 Week High	64	30
New 52 Week Low	11	
Share Volume		
Total	3,731,775,212	3,289,367,425
Advancing	888,607,090	1,512,375,776
Declining	2,666,738,493	1,723,692,285
Unchanged	176,429,629	53,299,364

S&P 500'S BIGGEST LOSERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Gartner Inc (IT)	124.34	-5.73	-4.4	-19.3
Ross Stores (ROST)	90.96	-4.16	-4.4	-21.9
VF Corp (VFC)	72.54	-3.28	-4.3	-27.2
Diamondback Energy (FANG)	28.04	-1.25	-4.3	-69.8
Vornado Rlty (VNO)	32.59	-1.42	-4.2	-51.0

NASDAQ COMPOSITE

-192.67	Closing: 11,478.88 Change: -1.7% YTD % Chg: +27.9%
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TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg	%YTD
ProShs UltPro ShtQQQ	SQQQ	21.85	+1.01	+4.8%	-80.5%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	342.01	-5.28	-1.5%	+6.3%
SPDR Financial	XLF	24.61	-0.38	-1.5%	-20.0%
Invesco QQQ Trust	QQQ	283.80	-4.71	-1.6%	+33.5%
ProShs UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	137.89	-7.21	-5.0%	+59.3%
iShs Emerg Mkts	EEM	45.43	-0.13	-0.3%	+1.2%
Direx S&P500Bear 3x	SPXS	5.36	+0.23	+4.5%	-59.5%
iPath Sh Term Fut	VXX	23.24	+0.97	+4.4%	+53.7%
iShares Silver Trust	SLV	22.58	+0.16	+0.7%	+35.4%
SPDR Energy	XLE	29.55	-0.64	-2.1%	-50.8%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.7724	.7733	.8010	.7725
Canadian dollar	1.3185	1.3182	1.4023	1.3121
Chinese yuan	6.6822	6.6976	7.0732	7.0817
Euro	.8499	.8533	.9202	.8959
Japanese yen	105.44	105.40	107.58	108.46
Mexican peso	21.2651	21.0995	23.7781	19.1333

RUSSELL 2000

-20.18	Closing: 1,613.63 Change: -1.2% YTD % Chg: -3.3%
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COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	%YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.04	1.07	-0.03	-2.9%	-16.6%
Corn (bushel)	4.05	4.02	+0.03	+0.8%	+4.5%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,906.40	1,900.80	+5.60	+0.3%	+25.5%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.71	.70	+0.01	+2.3%	...
Natural Gas (Btu.)	2.80	2.77	+0.03	+0.8%	+27.7%
Oil, heating (gal.)	1.16	1.18	-0.02	-1.8%	-42.9%
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	40.83	40.88	-0.05	-0.1%	-33.1%
Silver (troy oz.)	24.66	24.37	+0.29	+1.2%	+11.8%
Soybeans (bushel)	10.54	10.50	+0.04	+0.4%	+38.3%
Wheat (bushel)	6.27	6.25	+0.02	+0.3%	+12.2%

FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	%Chg.	%YTD
Frankfurt	12,854.66	12,908.99	-54.33	-0.4%	-3.0%
Hong Kong	24,542.26	24,386.79	+155.47	+0.6%	-12.9%
Japan (Nikkei)	23,671.13	23,410.63	+260.50	+1.1%	+0.1%
London	5,884.65	5,919.58	-34.93	-0.6%	-22.0%
Mexico City	37,685.74	37,876.49	-190.75	-0.5%	-13.5%

SOURCE Morningstar, Dow Jones Indexes, The Associated Press

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

IRS still lagging on stimulus checks

Agency extends deadline as people still are waiting



Susan Tompor
Columnist
USA TODAY

Many lower income households who are still wondering why they didn't get a stimulus check of \$1,200 or more are getting another second chance.

The Internal Revenue Service is extending what had been an Oct. 15 deadline until Nov. 21 for those who typically don't file a tax return to get their information to the IRS.

The IRS is trying to connect with such people who have not received an Economic Impact Payment yet. Those stimulus payments began rolling out in April but millions did not get money yet.

Who needs to do extra work to get money?

The goal is to reach out to homeless people, people who have little or no income and others in underserved communities who might qualify for a stimulus payment.

We're often talking about consumers with incomes typically below \$24,400 for married couples, and \$12,200 for singles who could not be claimed as a dependent by someone else.

"We have remained especially focused on getting payments out to people who are homeless, who don't normally have a return filing obligation, or who otherwise live their life outside normal lines of communication," according to testimony given by Charles Rettig, the IRS commissioner, to a House subcommittee on Oct. 7.

The IRS, Rettig said, has been working to reach out to "many lower-income, military, veterans, retired, older, limited English proficient, and homeless communities around the country."

And the IRS is asking for assistance from hundreds of local community



"We have remained focused on ... people who live their life outside normal lines of communication," said the IRS' Charles P. Rettig. POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

groups and religious organizations as part of its outreach.

What step needs to be taken?

The IRS wants people to supply information via its online tool called "Non-filers Enter Info Here" at www.irs.gov. You'd be able to request direct deposit of the money or receive a paper check.

Beginning two weeks after registering, people can track the status of their payment using the Get My Payment tool at irs.gov.

Consumers continue to be warned to avoid any of these COVID-19-related scams. You don't want to give a stranger your banking information if they call pretending that they can get your stimulus payment for you.

The IRS is not going to "call, text, email, or contact you on social media asking for personal or bank account in-

formation – even related to the economic impact payments."

The IRS notes that if the agency does show up at your door, it is usually after you've received many letters in the mail.

The IRS advises that the non-filer tool can be used if you did not file a 2019 federal tax return, get an Economic Impact Payment, or register by using the IRS tool already for an Economic Impact Payment.

What the IRS did not extend: "For taxpayers who requested an extension of time to file their 2019 tax return, that deadline date remains Oct. 15," according to the IRS notice.

What does it mean if I got a letter?

The IRS sent nearly 9 million letters in September to people who might be eligible for the stimulus money but did not file a tax return in or use the non-

filer tool.

The letters went out based on an IRS internal analysis of people who don't typically have a tax return filing requirement but had received forms W-2, 1099s and other third-party statements.

"We sent letters so recipients could apply for EIPs since we lack certain information, such as whether they became a dependent in 2020, and may actually be ineligible to receive an EIP," Rettig said.

The IRS said more than 6.7 million individuals have provided their information using the non-filer tool.

The stimulus payment program was designed as an emergency effort to help families financially during the economic fallout triggered by shutdowns across the country to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Many taxpayers who supplied direct deposit information when filing their 2019 tax returns electronically saw that stimulus money early on in April and May. Others waited into June and later to receive money.

Most people did not need to do anything to receive their stimulus checks, though the timeline for receiving the money did vary for different groups of taxpayers.

"So far, more than 160 million payments totaling more than \$270 billion have been delivered, most by direct deposit and some by paper check or prepaid debit card," Rettig said in testimony in October.

Rettig noted that the IRS worked cooperatively with the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs and other government agencies to "pull more information into our systems so that we could send payments to these groups of people without requiring them to file a return or take any other action."

Many advocacy groups had been concerned during the early talks of the stimulus package about how those with the greatest need might be left out if they're not regular tax filers.

Now, there are a few more weeks to get that message out to millions.

6M renters, owners missed September payments

Jessica Menton
USA TODAY

Persistent layoffs are slowing momentum in the labor market, which bodes poorly for the broader U.S. recovery as millions of out-of-work Americans delay their mortgage and rent payments.

More than 6 million households failed to make their rent or mortgage payments in September, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association's Research Institute for Housing America, a sign that the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic is weighing on jobless Americans as Congress stalls on relief measures.

In the third quarter, the percentage of homeowners and renters behind on their payments fell slightly from the prior quarter. Still, the overall amount remains high, experts caution.

Over the summer, rent and mortgage payment collections improved as states resumed business reopenings and more Americans returned to work. Yet high unemployment continues to place hardships on millions of U.S. households.

The unemployment rate fell to 7.9% from 8.4% in August, the Labor Depart-

ment said this month. The economy still is recouping jobs in outside fashion after shedding a record 22.1 million in early spring, but the recovery is slowing.

In September, 8.5% of renters, or 2.82 million households, missed, delayed, or made reduced payments while 7.1%, or 3.37 million homeowners, missed their mortgage payments.

Renters receiving unemployment benefits rose from 3% in early April to 7% by the end of September.

Congress stalls on COVID-19 relief

Congress hasn't approved additional coronavirus relief since March, when lawmakers compromised on a handful of bills totaling more than \$3 trillion, including one-time \$1,200 checks to Americans and a \$600 weekly unemployment boost. Economists worry that millions of U.S. households face the prospect of falling further behind without another round of federal aid.

"With the current eviction moratorium expiring in January, the situation could be even more challenging for renters," Gary V. Engelhardt, professor of economics in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse



"Many renter households across the country could find themselves with no place to live and no means to repay missed payments."

Gary V. Engelhardt Syracuse University

University, said in a note. "Many renter households across the country could find themselves with no place to live and no means to repay missed payments."

In September, the Trump administration implemented a national moratorium on residential evictions through the end of the year. The moratorium, which will run through Dec. 31, applies to individuals earning less than \$99,000 a year.

Republicans and Democrats have been deadlocked for months over a new coronavirus stimulus package.

The Republican-controlled Senate is set to act on a roughly \$500 billion relief proposal next week, an amount rejected by congressional Democrats as insufficient. On Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that passing

another COVID-19 relief package before the election would be "difficult."

26M student debt borrowers missed September payments

Millions of student debt borrowers, meanwhile, have fallen behind on their payments, which could have ramifications for their credit, experts caution.

In September, about 26 million people missed their student loan payment. The proportion of student debt borrowers who missed a monthly payment has remained steady at 40% since May.

Student debt borrowers receiving unemployment rose from 3% in early April to 8% by the end of September. In August, the Trump administration extended relief from March and suspended student loan payments, stopped collections and waived interest on federally held student loans until Dec. 31.

But it doesn't cover private student loans, which make up 7.87% of the total outstanding U.S. student loans.

"Borrowers ending up in default would see an adverse effect on their credit, in turn making it potentially more challenging for them to rent or qualify for a mortgage," Engelhardt said.

LIFELINE

THEY SAID WHAT?
THE STARS’ BEST QUOTES

“I never used to say the word racism; I just used to say, it’s territorialism...I never wanted people to say that I used that as an excuse, that I was throwing that word out. Now I’m happy that everyone’s all on the same page, that everyone feels comfortable to come out about their experiences without feeling some stigma. But for me, nothing’s changed. I’m going to speak the same way.” – Naomi Campbell, who became the first Black woman to cover French Vogue in 1988, told Vogue for its November 2020 issue, which she covers.



BUENA VISTA PICTURES

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
‘HOCUS POCUS’ FANS

Something wicked this way comes. Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy are getting the Sanderson Sisters back together later this month, 27 years after the Halloween cult classic for a virtual “Hocus Pocus” reunion, Midler announced Sunday. The live event, “In Search of the Sanderson Sisters: A Hocus Pocus Hulaween Takeover,” takes place Oct. 30 at 8 p.m. EDT. In addition to the trio of stars, the reunion features a deluge of famous faces including Meryl Streep, Jennifer Hudson, Billy Crystal, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kenan Thompson, John Stamos, Glenn Close, George Lopez, Martin Short, Adam Lambert, Michael Kors, Todrick Hall and more. Hulaween is part of Midler’s annual fundraiser for the New York Restoration Project, her organization dedicated to improving New York City’s infrastructure and greenery.



IT’S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO’S CELEBRATING TODAY

Viggo Mortensen is 62. **Snoop Dogg** is 49. **John Krasinski** is 41.

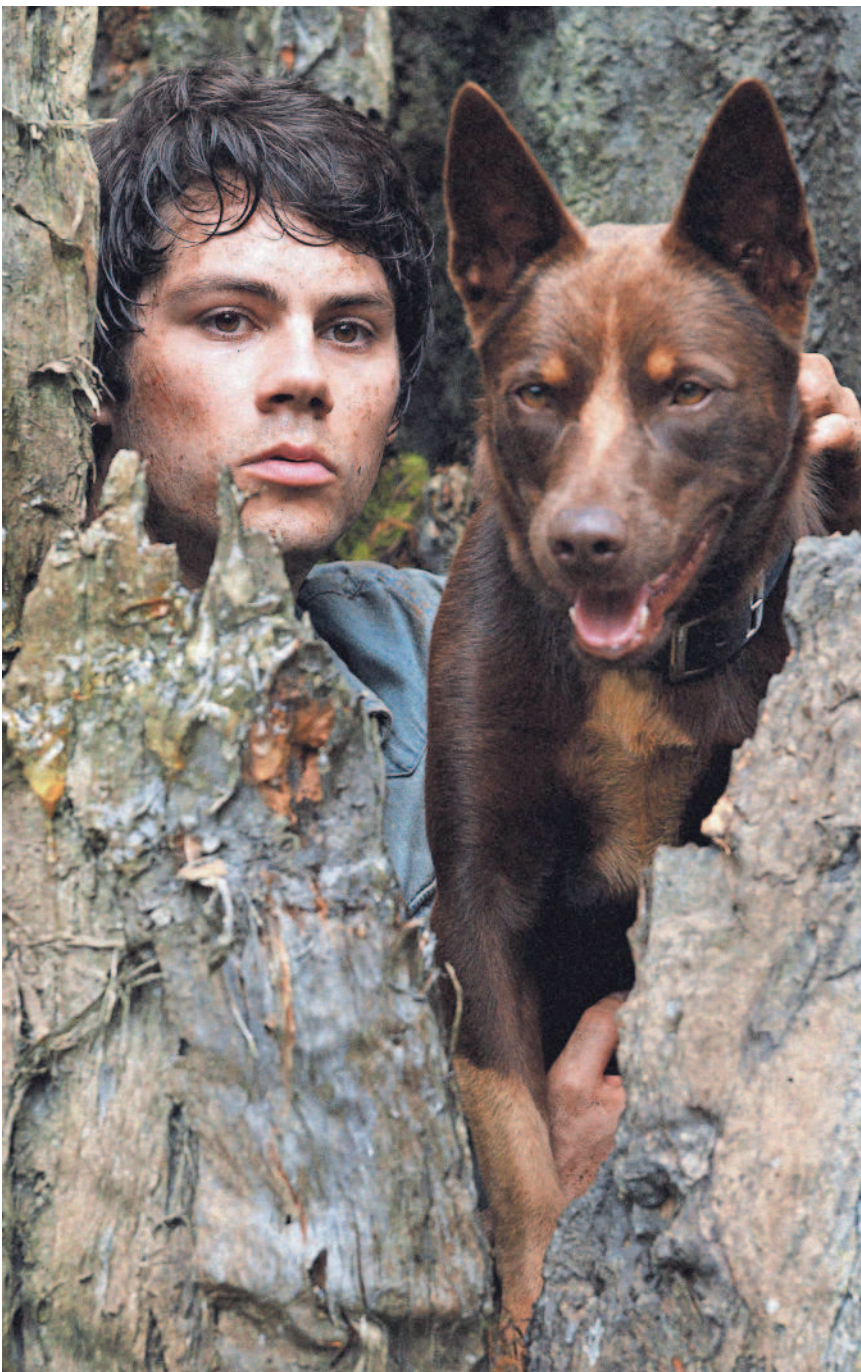
USA TODAY SNAPSHOTS®

iTunes movie rentals

1. Love and Monsters
2. Trump Card
3. Ava
4. Relic
5. Mulan

AS OF OCT. 19, ITUNES/APPLE

STREAMING



Dylan O'Brien loved having a dog as a scene partner filming “Love and Monsters.” JASIN BOLAND

O'Brien talks
‘Love,’ dogs
and the Mets

Brian Truitt USA TODAY

“Love and Monsters” is about a boy and his dog. Or, to be more specific, a Boy and his Dylan.● In the comedic creature feature (available Friday via streaming and on-demand platforms), Dylan O'Brien stars as Joel, a post-apocalyptic dude living in an America full of gigantic mutated animals who leaves the safety of his underground community and embarks on an 85-mile quest to find his high school sweetheart (Jessica Henwick). A dog named Boy becomes Joel's partner on his journey, which for O'Brien meant a scene partner who wouldn't stop licking his face.

Filming a movie with a dog was “the best,” though it was unfamiliar ground for O'Brien. “I was super excited but then also I was like, ‘Oh, it would be crazy if I can't even interact with the dog. What if it's like super professional or I can't have a normal relationship with it?’ And that was so not the case,” says the 29-year-old star of the “Maze Runner” franchise. “If anything, it was part of my homework to have a little bond” with the two dogs who played Boy – Dodge and especially Hero, who will “always be a really special friend that I had.”

After dramas like “American Assassin” and “Deepwater Horizon,” O'Brien – a New York native and longtime Mets fan – returns to comedy with “Love and Monsters” but next wields a sword in the Antoine Fuqua sci-fi film “Infinite” (in theaters May 28). He talks with USA TO-

See O'BRIEN, Page 7B



Joel (Dylan O'Brien) shares a moment with a robot during his epic quest in “Love and Monsters.” PARAMOUNT

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Rebecca’
gets a
makeover



Brian Truitt
Columnist
USA TODAY

It takes some nerve to reimagine a movie based on the same source material that spawned Alfred Hitchcock's Oscar best-picture winner 80 years ago. Ben Wheatley, however, is a filmmaker with no lack of gumption.

The director's “Rebecca” (★★★☆; rated PG-13; streaming Oct. 21 on Netflix), the latest adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's gothic 1938 novel, is a dreamy homage to old-school Hollywood as well as a haunting, female-driven psychological thriller with mystery and satisfying twists.

Lily James stars as a naive young British woman working as an assistant in 1930s Monte Carlo who meets the wealthy and dashing Maxim de Winter (Armie Hammer). Sparks fly – over oysters and scenic car rides – between the widowed Maxim and his innocent new love, though he's reticent to reveal any details about the recent death of his wife Rebecca. The courtship moves quickly, they get married and the new Mrs. de Winter moves into Maxim's palatial estate, the world-renowned Manderley.

She receives an instantly chilly reception from the housekeeper Mrs. Danvers (a wonderfully menacing Kristin Scott Thomas), yet even worse is that her husband's late spouse might as well still be living there. Secret rooms remain untouched, various objects bedecked with an elegant “R” can be found throughout the house, and Mrs. de Winter maddeningly cannot escape her predecessor's presence.

Mrs. Danvers' constant belittling comments and gestures don't help – she frequently tells Mrs. de Winter



Armie Hammer and Lily James star in the psychological thriller “Rebecca.” KERRY BROWN/NETFLIX

that she's incapable of being the lady of the house – nor does the fact that the increasingly erratic Maxim is obviously keeping secrets from his new bride.

Written by Jane Goldman, Joe Shrapnel and Anna Waterhouse, this new “Rebecca” leans heavily into the power struggle among its three main women – and just because Rebecca isn't there doesn't mean she's any less of a paramount persona. James and Scott Thomas are game foes, and their dynamic is as key as the one between James and Hammer. The two leads do a solid job tracking the relationship as it evolves from new love to a more complicated marriage as Wheatley slowly reveals important narrative pieces.

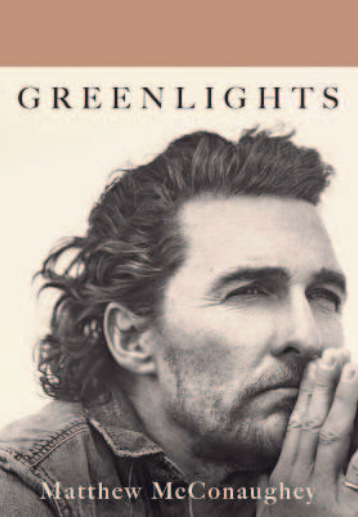
Juggling genres is a hallmark of Wheatley's filmography, and while “Rebecca” doesn't feel as original as his other films, such as the horror/crime drama “Kill List” or dystopian thriller “High-Rise,” the British director's update is a well-crafted affair that feels different enough for modern eyes from Hitchcock's 1940 take with Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine.

Wheatley contrasts the lush outside European vistas, where his main characters fall hard for each other, against the nightmarish interiors of Manderley, where things fall apart. And he wastes no time investing you squarely in the characters' emotional lives, especially James' famously unnamed heroine. Maybe most of us can't boast of tooling around Monte Carlo in a vintage vehicle, but romantic jealousy and having to deal with the ghost of your lover's ex will always be timeless themes in capable hands.

BOOKS

McConaughey’s memoir gets a greenlight, Plath bio, and more

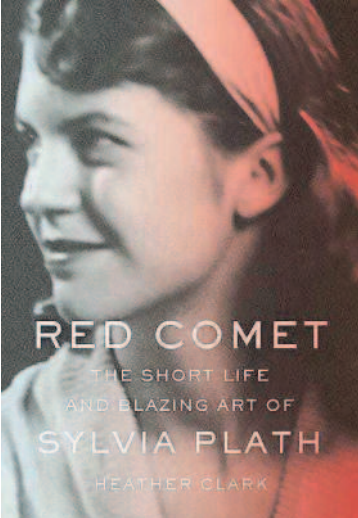
In search of something good to read? USA TODAY’s **Barbara VanDenburgh** scopes out the shelves for this week’s hottest new book releases.



1. “Greenlights”
by Matthew McConaughey (Crown, nonfiction, on sale Oct. 20)

What it’s about: The Academy Award-winning actor pens an unconventional and candid memoir filled with raucous stories and hard-won wisdom about living life to its fullest.

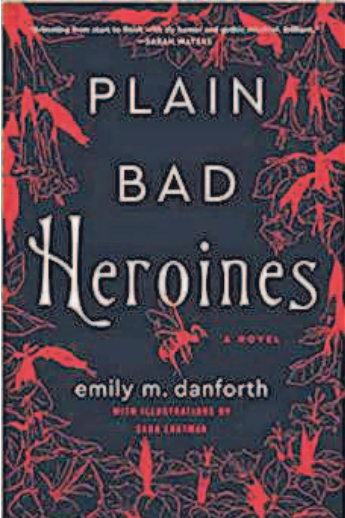
The buzz: McConaughey writes of the book and its central philosophy: “If you know how, and when, to deal with life’s challenges – how to get relative with the inevitable – you can enjoy a state of success I call “catching greenlights.”



2. “Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath”
by Heather Clark (Knopf, nonfiction, on sale Oct. 20)

What it’s about: This meticulously researched and lengthy biography of a much-romanticized poet promises to paint the full portrait of a complex woman and her remarkable literary achievements.

The buzz: “A major biography that redeems Plath from the condescension of easy interpretation,” says a starred review from Kirkus Reviews.



3. “Plain Bad Heroines”
by Emily M. Danforth; illustrated by Sara Lautman (William Morrow, fiction, on sale Oct. 20)

What it’s about: This queer, metafictional horror-comedy centers on a New England boarding school for girls, which was shuttered in the early 1900s after a spate of mysterious deaths and ends up back in the news a century later.

The buzz: “Even readers who aren’t fans of horror will appreciate this bighearted story,” says a starred review from Publishers Weekly.



4. “Knockout”
by Mia Kang (Abrams Press, nonfiction, on sale Oct. 20)

What it’s about: The fashion model and Muay Thai fighter charts her journey from self-loathing to self-love, sharing how she overcame an eating disorder and built confidence through martial arts.

The buzz: “This is a tough, triumphant memoir,” says Publishers Weekly.



5. “The Silence”
by Don DeLillo (Scribner, fiction, on sale Oct. 20)

What it’s about: In this short, timely novel set in the near future, five people gather in a Manhattan apartment on Super Bowl Sunday and experience a catastrophic event.

The buzz: “This is a small but vivid book, and in its evocation of people in the throes of social crisis, it feels deeply resonant,” says a starred review from Kirkus Reviews.

PUZZLES

To report problems, email feedback@usatoday.com. For more puzzles, get the USA TODAY Crossword app.

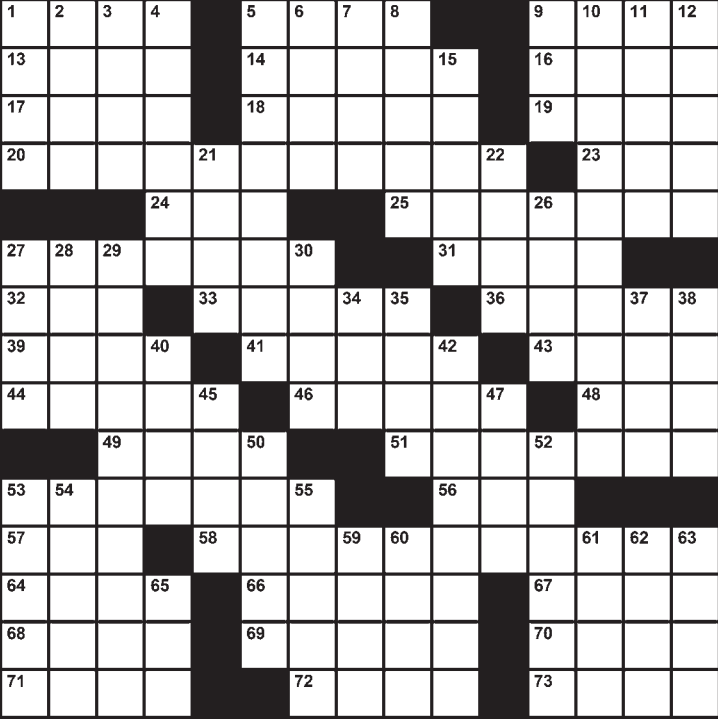
CROSSWORD

EDITED Erik Agard
BY Gail Grabowski

IT’S ALL IN THE PAST

ACROSS

- 1 Believability, for short
- 5 College transcript stats
- 9 ___ for (chooses)
- 13 Word before “bag” or “spider”
- 14 Curved like a rainbow
- 16 Distort
- 17 Poet Luis ___ Salinas
- 18 Ridiculous
- 19 Actress Falco
- 20 Hotel customer, e.g.
- 23 Put on
- 24 La Brea ___ Pits
- 25 Earliest time
- 27 Bank transaction
- 31 Can’t do without
- 32 Significant period
- 33 Identity-conceding name
- 36 Enjoy greatly
- 39 Well-ventilated
- 41 Colorful interlocking bricks
- 43 Country singer McEntire
- 44 Interior designer’s focus
- 46 Places to perch
- 48 Candle option
- 49 ___ out (barely got)
- 51 Clothing store section
- 53 Eager to listen
- 56 Was in charge of ___ off (prune)
- 58 Vacation preparation aid
- 64 Period of prosperity
- 66 Acadia National Park state
- 67 Pain from a workout
- 68 World power from 1922-1991
- 69 Choir voices
- 70 Have on
- 71 New York baseball team



- 22 Ballerina’s means of support
- 26 Right around the corner
- 27 Like an inoperative battery
- 28 Pennsylvania city on a Great Lake
- 29 Option for mailing packages
- 30 Finishes even with
- 34 Eligibility factor, perhaps
- 35 Source of suds
- 37 Woodwind instrument
- 38 Beams of sunlight
- 40 Connector of farm animals
- 42 Most strict
- 45 Gather
- 47 Deer dad
- 50 Comedy’s counterpart
- 52 Kin acquired via marriage
- 53 Book of photos
- 54 In need of tightening
- 55 Nearly boil
- 59 Flyer on a string
- 60 Get ___ the ground floor
- 61 Drink with a polar bear mascot
- 62 Decorative pillowcase
- 63 Actress Hatcher
- 65 Bride’s new title, perhaps

Monday’s Answer

B	E	G	S	O	B	E	M	O	W
M	I	L	E	F	E	A	R	S	O
O	D	I	E	E	A	T	U	P	S
B	U	Z	Z	L	I	G	H	T	E
S	P	A	E	G	O	D	I	A	N
D	R	O	O	P	I	C	O	N	I
R	A	S	P	A	V	E	D	R	O
A	N	T	T	A	K	E	B	O	N
G	I	R	C	U	L	A	R	I	F
O	N	I	P	O	P	C	S		
C	H	A	I	N	R	E	A	C	T
E	C	H	O	R	A	I	L	S	
L	I	E	S	I	P	O	D	S	
F	A	S	T	S	E	T	S	L	E

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 10/20

Find and Circle:
Four amphibians
___ Canal
Three smartphone makers
Two words meaning “mountaintop”
Two eight-letter birds

Monday’s answer: COLOMBIA PARAGUAY ECUADOR BOLIVIA URUGUAY BRAZIL GUYANA CHILE PERU / QUICK FAST / AREA / PLAIN / STATE

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 10/20

Accompanied by

Hostess treat

Chemistry building block

Equine hair

Banging sound

Greek letter

Dickie of baseball

Baseball plate

Monday’s Answer

B	E	E	F
L	L	U	U
I	R	A	N
P	O	L	K

10/19

QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE puzzles.usatoday.com

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



10/20

DIFFICULTY RATING ★☆☆☆☆

SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE puzzles.usatoday.com

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FWPMOTOROLA J
ERCEJSAMSUNG
IKOPANAMAJQE
RBLGLKSUEZDL
EQHCARDINALP
SALAMANDERV P
SUMMITOADCRA
NEWTFLAMINGO

© Andrews McMeel

UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 10/20

1. EXTENDED

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7. OVER

Clues:

- 1. Long visit
- 2. Remain motionless
- 3. Elton John’s “I’m ___”
- 4. Puddle or pond
- 5. Level of H₂O
- 6. Baccarat, for example
- 7. “You lose”

Monday’s Answer

PHOTO	FINISH	SECOND	LOOK	FOR	KEEPS	QUIET	DOWN
-------	--------	--------	------	-----	-------	-------	------

PLAY ONLINE PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM

© Andrews McMeel

TXTPERT

Across

- 1. 273
- 3. 264672
- 5. 726
- 7. 729
- 8. 626625
- 9. 369

Down

- 1. 22739653
- 2. 376463
- 4. 624
- 6. 5262
- 7. 7862

© USA TODAY and Rich Coulter

Today’s theme

Animals

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.

For example: 2 could be A, B or C ... and 5678 could be LOST

Yesterday’s solution

DON’T QUOTE ME

Theologian Thomas Merton talks about art.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.

ART ENABLES LOSE OURSELVES SAME TIME US

TO FIND

AND OURSELVES AT THE

Monday’s Answer: “You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.” - Mae West

© WIGGLES 3D GAMES

O'Brien

Continued from Page 5B

DAY about the new movies, pandemic baseball and his political side:

Question: Your character Joel is a chef in his bunker, but he doesn't feel that useful and could be doing more. Is that mind-set a little reflective of these COVID-19 times?

Dylan O'Brien: Totally. The ways we react to it says a lot about who we are. It's really an educating time: You're learning about yourself (and) our world, which we should have always been actively learning about, but we're all at home just trying to figure it out for ourselves and with each other. It's an interesting experience.

Q: So whom would you brave 85 miles full of humongous, dangerous critters to find?

O'Brien: Wow. Definitely someone I love, absolutely.

(Retired Mets player) David Wright comes to mind. And my parents ... after David Wright. (Laughs)

Q: Did having the Mets to watch the



Joel (Dylan O'Brien) and his canine friend Boy deal with gigantic critters in "Love and Monsters." PARAMOUNT

last couple of months help your pandemic state of mind?

O'Brien: Actually, I struggled with it a little bit at first.

It seemed really unwise to me and

unsustainable in terms of safety and health for everybody. I love baseball (but) we just need to be prioritizing keeping everyone safe in the pandemic. But they pulled it off and it did end up

being a really comforting thing.

Q: What can your legion of fans expect from you reteaming with "Deep-water Horizon" co-star Mark Wahlberg in "Infinite"?

O'Brien: Well, they can expect me not to be because I don't work with him in the movie. I never see him.

I ran into him on set at one point, got to say hi and catch up a little. So that's a big disclaimer. (Laughs) Don't get your hopes up!

Q: Your Twitter feed is filled with messages about voting in the upcoming election. When did that become important to you?

O'Brien: It was gradual as I got older and also coinciding with 2016, (plus) what we've dealt with the last seven months.

Things started happening in our world that are just impossible to ignore, impossible to not stand against and to not try to educate yourself about, and it's just too important to not try to fight.

It's our duty as humans. A lot of us are doing that.

Whatever minuscule amount of impact that you could or would have, it's just right to spread the word.

TONIGHT ON TV

	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
NETWORK								
ABC	The Bachelorette Nine bachelors learn how to communicate through the languages of love; the situation becomes intense during a group date when the men play dodgeball. (N)				Supermarket Sweep		Local Programs	Jimmy Kimmel Live
CBS	NCIS Respected Navy technician is killed; Faith makes odd request that stuns Sloane.		FBI College student dies after drug deal; Hailey Upton allies with the team.		The FBI Declassified (N)		Local Programs	The Late Show with Stephen Colbert (N)
Fox	2020 World Series Game 1 (Live)						Local Programs	
NBC	The Voice The "Blind Auditions" continue as the coaches seek the next superstar singer to coach; the vocalists compete to be selected by one of the coaches. (N)				Transplant Bash and Mags struggle with a language barrier as they try to help a patient. (N)		Local Programs	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)
PBS	Finding Your Roots Téa Leoni; Joe Madison. (N)		American Masters Gossipy journalism. (N)		Frontline Allegations of an unfair U.S. election. (N)		Amanpour and Company (N)	
CW	Swamp Thing Abby breaks into Alec's lab.		Tell Me a Story Father's funeral.		Local Programs			
ION	Criminal Minds BAU looks into brutal home invasions.		Criminal Minds Team enjoys a Saturday off.		Criminal Minds Fatal shootings.		Criminal Minds Foe makes demands.	
Telemundo	El Domo del Dinero El gran premio. (N)		Todo por mi hija		Falsa identidad (N)		Noticias Telemundo (N)	Noticias Telemundo (N)
Univision	Médicos, línea de vida		Imperio de mentiras		Dulce ambición		Noticiero Univisión (N)	Noti. Univ. Ed. noc. (N)
CABLE								
A&E	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
AMC	Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers Myers returns to his crime scene. Donald Pleasence (1988)				Psycho A fugitive woman stops at a motel run by a recluse and his tyrannical mother. Anthony Perkins (1960)			
Animal Planet	Alaskan Bush People: Wild Life (N)				Yukon Men Wildfire threatens town and residents.		Yukon Men Villagers must adjust after wildfire.	
BBC America	The Fifth Element A 23rd-century Brooklyn cab driver unwittingly becomes involved with a woman who may be the key to saving the world from destruction. (1997)				The Fifth Element Bruce Willis, Gary Oldman (1997)			
BET	Boyz n the Hood Life in gang-ridden Los Angeles.		Meet the Browns A single mother of three meets quirky family members she never knew existed. Angela Bassett, Jenifer Lewis (2008)					
Bravo	Don't Be Tardy ...	Don't Be Tardy ...	Don't Be Tardy ...	Don't Be Tardy ... (N)	Don't Be Tardy ... (N)	What Happens (N)	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best
Cartoon	Gumball No reputation.	Gumball	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	American Dad!	American Dad!	Family Guy	Family Guy
CMT	Mom Wellness retreat.		Mom Jill's sobriety.		Mom Women's prison.		Grown Ups 2 Friends prove glory days aren't over.	
CNBC	Shark Tank An idea to increase SAT scores.		Shark Tank Grease disposal.		Shark Tank Long-distance pet connections.		Shark Tank Teacher; gourmet food; life-saver.	
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360° (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N)	
Comedy	The Office		Tosh.0 What women love.		Tosh.0 (N)		Daily Show (N)	Tosh.0
Discovery	Homestead Rescue: Raney Ranch (N)		Building Off the Grid		Building Off the Grid: Tiny House on a Lake			
Disney	Disney Hall of Villains		BUNK'D	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Sydney to the Max	Sydney to the Max
DisXD	Player Select		Parker Plays		DuckTales Darkwing investigates a conspiracy.		Player Select	Player Select
DIY	Building Alaska Interior work.		Building Alaska Trailer breaks down on build site.		Building Alaska Shattered windows.		Building Alaska The teams race to finish their cabins.	
E!	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	Chrisley Knows Best	The Bradshaw Bunch	Nightly Pop (N)
Food	Chopped The chefs must utilize pig snouts.		Chopped A protein paired with a new starch. (N)		Chopped Rabbit terrine and packaged products.		Chopped Soup and dough in the first round.	
Fox News	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)		Hannity (N)		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News @ Night(N)	
Freeform	Ghostbusters II The Ghostbusters reunite to tangle with the spirit of a 16th-century tyrant. Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd (1989)					Penn Approves (N)	The 700 Club	
FX	Venom An investigative journalist accidentally acquires powers from an alien symbiote. Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams (2018)					Venom A journalist acquires alien powers. Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams (2018)		
FXX	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers
GSN	America Says		Master Minds		Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud
Hallmark	A Valentine's Match A woman gets fired from her job		as a reality TV host and decides to head home. (2020)		The Golden Girls		The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls
HGTV	Windy City Rehab: Raise the Stakes (N)		Windy City Rehab: Raise the Stakes (N)		House Hunters (N)		House Hunters	Hunters International
History	America's Book of Secrets: Special Edition		America's Book of Secrets: Special Edition Join cults and criminal organizations. (N)				America's Book of Secrets: Special Edition	
HLN	Forensic Files II		Forensic Files II		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files
ID	Homicide City An officer is gunned down in the street.		Homicide City Link another murder. (N)		Dead Silent Texas couple's life. (N) (Season premiere)		Dead Silent A ride to a friend's house turns fatal.	
IFC	Ghost Ship A salvage crew finds a haunted ship.		Rush Hour A Hong Kong detective and LAPD cop search for a diplomat's kidnapped daughter. (1998)				Get Hard Preparing for a prison sentence. (2015)	
Lifetime	Rizzoli & Isles A death in a prominent Boston family.		Rizzoli & Isles A possible hate crime at a lesbian bar.		Rizzoli & Isles Marathon runners are being shot down.		Rizzoli & Isles Serial killer who nearly murdered Jane.	
MotorTrend	Garage Squad A 1989 Chevrolet Camaro is repaired.		Garage Squad (N)		Chasing Classic Cars A rare Griffith 200. (N)		Shift Talkers (N)	
MSNBC	All in with Chris Hayes (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell (N)		The 11th Hour with Brian Williams (N)	
MTV	Teen Mom 2 Jade asks her parents to move out. (N)		16 and Pregnant Teen must make tough decision. (N)		Ridiculousness		Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness
NatGeo	Life Below Zero Deep snow and other challenging conditions affect the Alaskans. (N)				Life Below Zero Everyday chores. (N)		Life Below Zero Deep snow affects the Alaskans.	
NatGeo Wild	Animal Fight Night: Summer Heat Bear; starling.		Animal Fight Night: Summer Heat Monitor lizards.		Animal Fight Night Battles in extremes.		Animal Fight Night: Summer Heat Bear; starling.	
Nick	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Bee Movie Young honeybee partners up with florist when he decides to venture outside hive. (2007)				Friends	Friends
OWN	The Haves and the Have Nots Ahead of enemies. (N)		Black Women OWN The Conversation (N)		The Haves and the Have Nots Landon seeks trust.		The Haves and the Have Nots Ahead of enemies.	
Oxygen	Chicago P.D. Lindsay's first case with task force.		Chicago P.D. Ruzek takes a case from his own father.		Chicago P.D. Antonio confronts fire suspect.		Chicago P.D. Suspicious repeat customer.	
Paramount	Movie				Movie			
Pop	NCIS: New Orleans Taking organs.		NCIS: New Orleans Car explosion.		NCIS: New Orleans High school gang.		NCIS: New Orleans Navy contractor lives double life.	
Science	Mysteries of the Abandoned A mountain fortress.		Mysteries of the Abandoned Network of bunkers.		Mysteries of the Abandoned Murders in castle.		Mysteries of the Abandoned Industrial complex.	
Sundance	A Bronx Tale Man faces the mob to raise son right. Robert De Niro (1993) (7:00)				A Bronx Tale A '60s bus driver struggles to bring up his son right amid temptations. Robert De Niro, Chazz Palminteri (1993)			
Syfy	Insidious: The Last Key Medium's childhood home haunted. Lin Shaye, Leigh Whannell (2018) (7:45)				It Follows A teenage girl's discomfiting sexual encounter leaves her feeling uneasy. Maika Monroe (2015)			
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory		Big Bang Theory	The Misery Index (N)	Conan	The Misery Index
TCM	Women Make Film (N)		Tomka and His Friends (1977) (9:15)				Women Make Film	
TLC	Little People, Big World Severe cold. (N)		Little People, Big World COVID-19 standstill. (N)		Sweet Home Sextuplets Pandemic life. (N)		Sweet Home Sextuplets Babies get haircut.	
TNT	The Bourne Ultimatum An amnesiac assassin tries to uncover the secrets of his past. Matt Damon (2007)				The Bourne Identity An amnesiac wanted by the U.S. government searches for clues to his past. (2002)			
Travel	The Dead Files North Carolina.		The Dead Files A home's disturbing history.		The Dead Files Steve learns about a war soldier.		The Dead Files Tucson, Ariz.	
TruTV	Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers	
TV Land	Loves Raymond		Loves Raymond		Two and a Half Men		The King of Queens	
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Rape charges.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Athlete is attacked.		Modern Family	
VH1	Coming to America An African prince flees an arranged marriage to find his own American queen. (1988)				Chappelle's Show		Chappelle's Show	
Viceland	Killer Kids Missouri girl's disappearance.		I Was a Teenage Felon Shipping company.		I Was a Teenage Felon Crime and porn. (N)		VICE News Tonight (N)	
WE	Law & Order Man claims presidential parentage.		Law & Order War widow and baby at bombing.		Law & Order Emails lead to a body & corruption.		Law & Order Murder of bank CEO's mistress.	
Weather	Deadline to Disaster Hurricane Michael.		Deadline to Disaster Two tornadoes.		Deadline to Disaster Ten inches of rain in two hours.		Storm Stories: The Next Chapter Kill skiers.	
WGN America	NewsNation		NewsNation		NewsNation		NewsNation	
MOVIE NETWORKS								
Cinemax	Killerman A New York City money launderer goes on a search for answers after he wakes up with no memory and millions of stolen money and drugs. Liam Hemsworth, Emory Cohen (2019)				Anna A woman with a secret lying underneath her beauty soon unleashes her strength and skill in becoming one of the world's most feared government assassins. Sasha Luss, Helen Mirren (2019) (9:55)			
Encore	Meet the Parents A male nurse attempts to impress his girlfriend's ultra-conservative father. (2000) (7:09)		Meet the Fockers Hilarity ensues when Greg Focker takes his fiancée and straight-laced future in-laws down to meet his eccentric parents in Florida. Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller (2004)				Eddie Murphy: Raw Funnyman Eddie Murphy discusses divorce and relations between the sexes. (1987)	
FXM	Blockers Three parents try to stop their daughters from losing virginity on prom night. Leslie Mann (2018)		Blockers Three protective parents try to stop their high school daughters from losing their virginity on prom night, which leads to a wild, frenzied affair. Leslie Mann, Ike Barinholtz (2018) (9:05)				Keep Watching Family is forced to play deadly game that is live streamed across the planet. (2017)	
Hallmark Movies	MatchMaker Mysteries: A Killer Engagement A bride-to-be is murdered. Danica McKellar (2019) (7:00)		Aurora Teagarden Mysteries: Three Bedrooms, One Corpse When librarian Aurora helps out her overworked real estate mother, she once again steps into a life or death situation with the discovery of two bodies. (2016)				Murder, She Wrote An unsent letter is found on the same day a furniture store is set on fire.	
HBO	Grudge Match When an inadvertently hilarious grudge match between two retired boxers goes viral, their rivalry turns into a highly-publicized event. Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone (2013) (8:05)				Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel		Lovecraft Country Group learns Book of Names' origins and plans to cast the most powerful spell.	
Lifetime Movie	Killer Contractor A history of deadly mishaps and shocking secrets are revealed as a widow and her daughter work with a contractor to settle her late husband's estate. Alyshia Ochse, Mark Lawson (2019)				The Wrong House Sitter A man meets a woman who seems like the perfect house sitter, but she ends up posing as his new girlfriend with no intentions of leaving. Vivica A. Fox, Jason-Shane Scott (2020)			
Showtime	Ray Donovan Terry's stay at the prison may be short; Ray needs access to a powerful man.		Inside the NFL (N)		The Best of All the Smoke with Matt Barnes and Stephen Jackson (N) (Series premiere)		Inside the NFL	
Starz	Here Comes the Boom A teacher becomes MMA fighter for his school's extra-curricular activities. (2012)		The Spanish Princess Catherine protects England from James IV while Henry moves to invade France.		Titanic An aging survivor of the Titanic tells the story of her forbidden romance with a young, dashing vagabond during the ship's infamous maiden voyage. Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet (1997) (10:01)			
TMC	Paradise Hills A woman wakes up on an isolated island where families send their daughters. Emma Roberts, Danielle Macdonald (2019)		Amy The life of singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse is explored, from her beginnings as a jazz singer to her quick and turbulent rise to stardom. Mos Def, Mark Ronson (2015) (9:35)				Spring Breakers Selena Gomez (2013) (11:45)	
SPORTS NETWORKS								
ESPN	Heisman Trophy Preview Show		30 for 30 Vick (Part I)				SportsCenter with Scott Van Pelt	
ESPN2	UFC Countdown UFC 254: Khabib vs. Gaethje		UFC Main Event Khabib vs. Poirier		UFC Unleashed		NFL Live	
FS1	Breaking the Huddle		MLS Soccer FC Dallas at Nashville SC from Nissan Stadium (Live)				MLB on FS1 Postgame (Live)	
Golf	Loopers: The Caddie's Long Walk Unsung heroes of golf. Ben Crenshaw (2019)				Loopers: The Caddie's Long Walk Unsung heroes of golf. Ben Crenshaw, Nick Faldo (2019) (9:45)		Golf Central	
MLB	To Be Announced	MLB Tonight	To Be Announced	MLB Tonight	To Be Announced	MLB Tonight	To Be Announced	MLB Tonight
NBA	NBA GameTime (Live)	NBA GameTime	#NBATogether Johnson	NBA Basketball	NBA GameTime	NBA GameTime	NBA GameTime	NBA GameTime
NBCSports	Caffeine & Octane	Caffeine & Octane	Carcass	Carcass	Mecum Top 10	Mecum Top 10	Caffeine & Octane	Caffeine & Octane
NFLN	NFL Football						NFL Total Access An inside look at all 32 teams.	

STREAMING PREVIEW

‘Grand Army’: An imperfect version of ‘Euphoria’



Kelly Lawler
Columnist
USA TODAY

There’s no doubt that “Grand Army” is trying its best.

Adapted by Katie Cappiello from her 2013 play “Slut,” Netflix’s glossy, gritty new teen drama (now streaming, ★★☆☆) is trying to say big things about race, gender, classism and poverty. It’s also trying to turn an introspective play into an ensemble drama, and to craft an adolescent soap opera from all the poli-ticking and public service announce-ments. It’s trying to do so much that it occasionally gets in its own way, and is bogged down by extraneous storylines and buzzwords.

If you strip back some of the ex-cesses, there’s a gripping teen drama there somewhere. When you find it, “Army” is exquisite. But the show can be a slog when it loses its way.

“Army” follows five teens at the fic-tional Grand Army High School, which brings together a diverse collection of students from different cultural and so-cioeconomic backgrounds. Joey Del Marco (Odessa A’zion), a white fire-brand feminist with a self-centered kind of activism (who is the main char-acter in “Slut”); Dominique Pierre (Odley Jean), a Black student who has huge potential to succeed but is held back by her need to provide for her Hai-tian family; Siddhartha Pakam, (Amir Bageria), an Indian-American who struggles with his sexual identity; Leila Zimmer (Amalia Yoo), a Chinese Amer-ican girl adopted by white parents who’s desperate to fit in; and Jayson Jackson (Maliq Johnson), a naïve band kid.

In the first episode, set in January, the students’ world is rocked by a terror-ist attack mere feet from the school, which sets off a chain of interpersonal events that shape the narrative of the season. Joey is criticized by a teacher for wearing revealing clothing; Leila is se-cretly thrilled when she is added to a lewd list of hot girls; Jayson and his friend Owen (Jaden Jordan) get in trou-



Tamika (Brittany Adebumola, from left), Dominique (Odley Jean) and Sonia (Naiya Ortiz) are coming of age in Netflix’s “Grand Army.” PHOTOS BY JASPER SAVAGE/NETFLIX



Leila Zimmer (Amalia Yoo) is a Chinese American girl trying to fit in.

ble; Dominique sees \$200 that she needs to help her family stolen; and Sid worries about being considered a terror-ist because of his race.

From here the plot gets more compli-cated and darker. Shades of “Degrassi,” and more recently, HBO’s “Euphoria” are here, as the series tries to get into the lives of its teen characters. Like “Eupho-ria,” “Army” doesn’t shy away from the underbelly of modern teen life, includ-ing drug use, sexual assault, bullying, revenge porn and other risqué activities that terrify the parents of Generation Z. Jean and A’zion, daughter of “Better Things” star/creator Pamela Adlon, turn in star-making performances as Dom and Joey, the strongest characters with the most consistently effective story-lines. A’zion balances a character who is both infuriating and somehow still lik-able, while Jean ably handles the inner struggle of Dom, who has to constantly adjust her mood and behavior to satisfy her family, the white teachers at school, or her friends. Apart from those stories is where

“Army” falters. Leila is so immensely grating that her appearances stop the show in its tracks (especially when her animated fantasies provide a jarring contrast with the rest of the show). Sid speaks in platitudes and buzzwords about race and sexuality that feel un-natural. Jayson’s encounter with the school’s disciplinary measures seems more like a morality play than anything that has to do with him or Owen as char-acters. Here, the big ideas about race and the “school to prison pipeline” are supposed to come out, but there’s inau-thenticity to the portrayal. It’s frustrating when the “Army” writ-ers get in their own way. But when A’zion or Jean are on screen, the show instan-tly rights itself, guided by the sheer char-isma of the two young actors. Like so many high school students, “Army” doesn’t get straight A’s the first time out. But there’s room to try again.

AMERICAN INFLUENCER AWARDS

who is your favorite

BEAUTY INFLUENCER?

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Shortstop Corey Seager helped the Dodgers punch their ticket to the World Series by hitting five home runs and being named MVP of the NLCS against the Braves in seven games. TIM HEITMAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Unlikely World Series

Opted-out Price: ‘Didn’t think there was any way’



Bob Nightengale
Columnist
USA TODAY

ARLINGTON, Texas – David Price was sitting in his spacious Scottsdale, Arizona, home Sunday night, watching his Dodgers teammates celebrate on the field at Globe Life Park, winning the National League pennant, when a text message shot across his cellphone screen.

“So, who are you rooting for? LOL.” It was from Rays ace Blake Snell.

“The guys in blue,” Price responded.

This will be the most unique World Series in history, played on a neutral site, with sparse attendance, mixed in with canned crowd noise, between two teams that didn’t play a regular-season game in the Central Time zone all season.

It’s the Dodgers and the Rays meeting in Game 1 Tuesday (8:08 p.m. ET, Fox) with the Dodgers trying to win their first World Series pennant in 32 years, the Rays trying to win the first title in

their 23-year history and the player with strong connections to both sitting at home.

The last time the Rays were in the World Series, in 2008 against the Phillies, Price, now 35, was their phenom rookie pitcher.

The last time Price was in the World Series, he was pitching against the Dodgers, leading the Red Sox to the 2018 World Series title.

Now, with Price’s past intersecting with his present, he is at home, believing that in the year of the improbable, mixed in with the horrific, the impossible has occurred.

The World Series is taking place in the heart of Texas in the middle of a pandemic.

“To be honest, I never had the conviction this would happen,” Price told USA TODAY Sports. “I didn’t think there was any way. Even when the season started, and the Marlins and Cardinals had their outbreaks, I didn’t know if the season would go on.”

Price, in a way, staked \$11.9 million that it wouldn’t. It was the amount of salary he forfeited by opting out of the season, staying home with his wife and

two young kids, unwilling to risk the health and safety of his family.

“At the time, the world was going through a lot,” Price said. “I definitely felt the need to be with my family. I put baseball first for almost my entire life. I have a wife and two kids; I needed to be home with them.”

“I just didn’t think it would work. It wasn’t just each player taking care of themselves, you had to depend on your teammates to do the thing. You had to depend on your teammates’ family members and friends. Everybody had to make sound decisions. I didn’t think that would happen.”

There were times it looked like the season was doomed. There were 31 players who tested positive for COVID-19 when they arrived in spring training. The Marlins had 20 players and staff members test positive the first weekend of the season. The Cardinals had an outbreak of 18 players and staffers, shutting them down for 16 days.

Yet the games went on and the 60-game season was completed. Players

See NIGHTENGALE, Page 3C



Jarrett Bell
Columnist
USA TODAY

Bucs are very much more than TB12 show

TAMPA, Fla. – At one point during the dismantling of Aaron Rodgers and the hottest offense in the NFL, Todd Bowles made a point to his Buccaneers defense about respect.

Let Devin White, the high-energy linebacker, relay the prodding that came from his coordinator on the sideline. After falling behind 10-0, the Bucs needed to change their mindset in a hurry.

“We’re respecting those guys too much,” White recalled of Bowles’ chatter after Tampa Bay’s defense led the way to a 38-10 thrashing of the Packers.

This respect theme echoed the message Bowles preached all week as a matchup loomed against the league’s highest-scoring offense. In other words: Play aggressively and make them earn their respect.

“He gave everybody the green light,” White said.

Jamel Dean certainly got the memo. The second-year cornerback jumped a route against Davante Adams and returned the interception 32 yards for a touchdown – the first blow in a record-setting second quarter.

“He did that to us a few times in training camp,” Tom Brady said. “That was a big play. Sparked us.”

One play never determines a game, but, as illustrated on Sunday at Raymond James Stadium, it can certainly turn momentum. Or maybe even flick out the lights.

The Packers, losing for the first time this season, were never the same after that. Tampa Bay outscored the Pack 28-0 in the second quarter. It was no mere bad day at the office for Rodgers’ crew. No, Tampa Bay’s relentless defense did ‘em in.

After the pick-six, Rodgers was intercepted again on the next series. He never regained the rhythm he started with, which can happen when you are sacked four times and repeatedly chased out of the pocket. The Bucs racked up 13 quarterback hits, which was among many underlying reasons why Rodgers left with the second-worst passer rating for a game of his career (35.4). His running game was stuffed, too.

All week, the Buccaneers’ defense heard how Rodgers was poised to light them up while on the other side of Brady in a marquee matchup of

See BELL , Page 5C

SPORTSLINE

FIRST WORD

“Now, into my golden years, this just seemed to be the time that was right.”

Mike “Doc” Emrick, a Hall of Fame hockey announcer, to the New York Post announcing his retirement as a broadcaster. He covered 22 Stanley Cups, including 45 Game 7s. He has worked for ESPN, ABC, Fox and CBS for six Olympic Winter Games. The 74-year-old has called more than 3,750 games over a 47-year career. He’s been the main voice for NHL games on NBC since moving to the network full time in 2011.

NOTABLE NUMBER

158 People associated with 23 different hockey-related organizations and teams in New Hampshire have tested positive for COVID-19, causing Gov. Chris Sununu to suspend all hockey activities at indoor rinks for two weeks.

LAST WORDS

“The fact that Steph contracted it was my worst nightmare being that I would never want to sabotage anything to the slightest degree, because I know what we have the capability of becoming.”

Cam Newton, to Boston radio station WEEI, after teammate Stephon Gilmore, who had been in close contact with the Patriots quarterback, recently tested positive for COVID-19. Newton had tested positive five days earlier. Prior to that, he said he had no symptom and no idea how he contracted the virus.

“Don’t feel sorry for me. I’m going to handle this rehab like a Pro and come back better than ever. Thank you @Titans fans for your support. #NoBadDay I can’t wait to watch my guys crush it. ... We are doing something special here and this small set back doesn’t change a thing!”

Titans star left tackle Taylor Lewan, on Twitter after learning his NFL season was over. He suffered a torn ACL in Sunday’s 42-36 overtime win against the Texans.

From staff and wire reports

DEAR AMERICA, LET’S MANUFACTURE A BETTER FUTURE. LET’S MAKE IT HERE.

FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP American League

Tampa Bay 4, Houston 3

Oct. 11: Tampa Bay 2, Houston 1
Oct. 12: Tampa Bay 4, Houston 2
Oct. 13: Tampa Bay 5, Houston 2
Oct. 14: Houston 4, Tampa Bay 3
Oct. 15: Houston 4, Tampa Bay 3
Oct. 16: Houston 7, Tampa Bay 4
Oct. 17: Tampa Bay 4, Houston 2

National League

L.A. Dodgers 4, Atlanta 3

Oct. 12: Atlanta 5, L.A. Dodgers 1
Oct. 13: Atlanta 8, L.A. Dodgers 7
Oct. 14: L.A. Dodgers 15, Atlanta 3
Oct. 15: Atlanta 10, L.A. Dodgers 2
Oct. 16: L.A. Dodgers 7, Atlanta 3
Oct. 17: L.A. Dodgers 3, Atlanta 1
Oct. 18: L.A. Dodgers 4, Atlanta 3

WORLD SERIES

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary) L.A. Dodgers vs. Tampa Bay

At Arlington, Texas (All Games on Fox)
Oct. 20: Tampa Bay (Glasnow 5-1) vs. L.A. Dodgers, 8:09 p.m.
Oct. 21: Tampa Bay (Snell 4-2) vs. L.A. Dodgers, 8:08 p.m.
Oct. 23: L.A. Dodgers vs. Tampa Bay, 8:08 p.m.
Oct. 24: L.A. Dodgers vs. Tampa Bay, 8:08 p.m.
x- Oct. 25: Dodgers vs. Tampa Bay, 8:08 p.m.
x- Oct. 27: Tampa Bay vs. Dodgers, 8:08 p.m.
x- Oct. 28: Tampa Bay vs. Dodgers, 8:09 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto FC	12	2	5	41	30	17
Philadelphia	10	3	5	35	32	16
Columbus	10	4	4	34	30	15
Orlando City	8	2	8	32	30	18
New England	7	4	7	28	20	16
New York City FC	8	8	3	27	24	19
New York	7	8	4	25	22	23
Montreal	7	10	2	23	29	36
Nashville SC	5	6	6	21	15	17
Chicago	5	8	5	20	24	28
Atlanta	5	10	4	19	18	22
Inter Miami CF	5	11	3	18	19	29
Cincinnati	4	11	4	16	11	30
D.C. United	3	10	6	15	17	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	9	4	4	31	35	17
Portland	9	5	4	31	38	30
Sporting KC	9	6	3	30	31	25
Los Angeles FC	7	7	4	25	40	34
Minnesota United	6	5	6	24	28	23
FC Dallas	6	4	6	24	22	17
San Jose	6	7	6	24	28	43
Vancouver	7	12	0	21	22	40
Real Salt Lake	5	7	6	21	24	29
Houston	4	7	8	20	27	32
Colorado	5	4	4	19	25	20
LA Galaxy	5	9	3	18	22	34

Sunday's Games

Columbus 3, New York City FC 1
Orlando City 1, New York 1, tie
D.C. United 2, Cincinnati 1
Toronto FC 1, Atlanta 0
Houston 2, Minnesota 2, tie
Los Angeles FC 1, Portland 1, tie

LA Galaxy 1, Vancouver 0
Seattle 0, San Jose 0, tie
Real Salt Lake at Colorado, ppd.

Monday's Game

Philadelphia at New England

Tuesday's Game

FC Dallas at Nashville, 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Game

Sporting Kansas City at Colorado, ppd.

Thursday's Game

Portland at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

English Premier League

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Everton	5	4	1	0	14	7	13
Aston Villa	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Liverpool	5	3	1	1	13	10	10
Leicester	5	3	0	2	12	8	9
Arsenal	5	3	0	2	8	6	9
Wolverhampton	5	3	0	2	5	7	9
Tottenham	5	2	2	1	15	8	8
Chelsea	5	2	2	1	13	9	8
West Ham	5	2	2	1	11	7	7
Leeds	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
Man City	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
Southampton	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Newcastle	5	2	1	2	7	9	7
Crystal Palace	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Man United	4	2	0	2	9	12	6
Brighton	5	1	1	3	9	11	4
West Brom	5	0	2	3	5	13	2
Burnley	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
Sheffield Utd	5	0	1	4	2	7	1
Fulham	5	0	1	4	4	12	1

Sunday's Games

Sheffield United 1, Fulham 1
Crystal Palace 1, Brighton 1
Tottenham 3, West Ham 3
Leicester 0, Aston Villa 1

Monday's Games

West Brom 0, Burnley 0
Leeds 0, Wolverhampton 1

Friday's Game

Aston Villa vs. Leeds, 2 p.m.

Saturday's Games

West Ham vs. Man City, 6:30 a.m.
Fulham vs. Crystal Palace, 9 a.m.
Man United vs. Chelsea, 11:30 a.m.
Liverpool vs. Sheffield United, 2 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	2	0	.666	156	168
Miami	3	3	0	.500	160	113
New England	2	3	0	.400	109	110
N.Y. Jets	0	6	0	.000	75	185

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000	164	126
Indianapolis	4	2	0	.666	157	115
Houston	1	5	0	.166	146	182
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.166	125	181

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	5	0	0	1.000	156	94
Baltimore	5	1	0	.833	179	104
Cleveland	4	2	0	.666	163	187
Cincinnati	1	4	1	.250	129	157

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	5	1	0	.833	175	127
Las Vegas	3	2	0	.600	151	152
Denver	2	3	0	.400	100	110
L.A. Chargers	1	4	0	.200	110	125

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	2	3	0	.400	163	180
Philadelphia	1	4	1	.250	141	175
N.Y. Giants	1	5	0	.166	101	152
Washington	1	5	0	.166	108	162

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.666	177	122
New Orleans	3	2	0	.600	153	150
Carolina	3	3	0	.500	138	141
Atlanta	1	5	0	.166	162	184

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	5	1	0	.833	128	116
Green Bay	4	1	0	.800	162	139
Detroit	2	3	0	.400	133	143
Minnesota	1	5	0	.166	155	192

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	5	0	0	1.000	169	135

L.A. Rams	4	2	0	.666	152	114
Arizona	3	2	0	.600	128	102
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	148	130

Sunday's Games

Tennessee 42, Houston 36, OT
N.Y. Giants 20, Washington 19
Indianapolis 31, Cincinnati 27
Atlanta 40, Minnesota 23, OT
Chicago 24, Carolina 16
Detroit 34, Jacksonville 16
Pittsburgh 38, Cleveland 7
Denver 18, New England 12
Baltimore 30, Philadelphia 28
Miami 24, N.Y. Jets 0
Tampa Bay 38, Green Bay 10
San Francisco 24, L.A. Rams 16
Open: L.A. Chargers, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Seattle

Monday's Games

Kansas City 26, Buffalo 17
Arizona at Dallas
Thursday's Game
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.

DEALS

BASEBALL Major League Baseball National League

ATLANTA BRAVES – Activated OFs Tucker Davidson and general manager Nick Krall will head the baseball operations department.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS – Agreed to terms with pitching coach Jim Hickey.
FOOTBALL National Football League
DETROIT LIONS – Signed DT Albert Huggins to the practice squad.
HOCKEY National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES – Re-signed F Christian

Fischer to a two-year, one-way contract.
BUFFALO SABRES – Signed F Steven Fogarty to a one-year contract.
OTTAWA SENATORS – Signed F J.C. Beaudin to a one-year, two-way contract.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
PHILADELPHIA UNION – Acquired an international roster spot from Montreal Impact for the 2020 season in exchange for general allocation money.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series

Hollywood Casino 400

Sunday

At Kansas Speedway

Kansas City, Kan.

Lap length: 1.50 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

- (2) Joey Logano, Ford, 267 laps, 42 points.
- (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 267, 48.
- (6) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 267, 46.
- (8) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 267, 47.
- (20) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 267, 33.
- (1) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 267, 47.
- (9) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 267, 45.
- (10) William Byron, Chevrolet, 267, 29.

- (5) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 267, 34.
- (22) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 267, 27.
- (17) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 26.
- (18) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 267, 29.
- (16) Aric Almirola, Ford, 267, 24.
- (13) Cole Custer, Ford, 267, 23.
- (7) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 267, 40.
- (23) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 267, 21.
- (32) John H. Nemechek, Ford, 267, 20.
- (24) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 267, 19.
- (26) Michael McDowell, Ford, 267, 18.
- (11) Erik Jones, Toyota, 267, 23.
- (21) Chris Buescher, Ford, 267, 16.
- (28) Ryan Newman, Ford, 267, 15.
- (29) Corey LaJoie, Ford, 267, 14.
- (25) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 266, 13.
- (15) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 266, 12.
- (12) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 266, 12.
- (31) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 258, 4.
- (34) JJ Yeley, Chevrolet, 261, 0.
- (14) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 261, 6.
- (32) James Davison, Ford, 258, 5.
- (31) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 258, 4.
- (37) Timmy Hill, Toyota, 256, 0.
- (35) Josh Blicic, Chevrolet, 254, 0.
- (36) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 250, 1.
- (38) Joey Gase, Ford, 228, 0.
- (3) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, engine, 197, 3.
- (40) C. Finchum, Toyota, trnsmisn, 154, 0.
- (30) M. Kenseth, Chevrolet, accdnt, 144, 1.

GOLF

PGA Tour CJ Cup

Sunday

At Shadow Creek Golf Course, Las Vegas

Purse: \$9.75 million

Yardage: 7,527; Par: 72

Final Round

Individual FedExCup Points in parentheses	
Jason Kokrak (500), \$1,755,000	70-66-68-64, 268 (-20)
Xander Schauffele (300), \$1,053,000	66-64-74-66, 270 (-18)
Tyrrell Hatton (163), \$565,500	65-68-73-65, 271 (-17)
Russell Henley (163), \$565,500	66-68-67-70, 271 (-17)
Talor Gooch (110), \$390,000	70-65-69-68, 272 (-16)
Joaquin Niemann (100), \$351,000	72-69-69-66, 275 (-13)
Lanto Griffin (88), \$314,438	70-68-66-72, 276 (-12)
Bubba Watson (88), \$314,438	74-69-65-68, 276 (-12)
Sebastián Muñoz (80), \$282,750	71-70-67-69, 277 (-11)
Harris English (75), \$263,250	75-66-69-68, 278 (-10)
Cameron Smith (70), \$243,750	69-74-68-68, 279 (-9)
Matthew Fitzpatrick (58), \$190,320	69-68-72-71, 280 (-8)
Viktor Hovland (58), \$190,320	75-66-69-70, 280 (-8)
Collin Morikawa (58), \$190,320	71-65-71-73, 280 (-8)
Ian Poulter (58), \$190,320	69-70-73-68, 280 (-8)
Justin Thomas (58), \$190,320	72-66-68-74, 280 (-8)

NETWORK HEISMAN SURVEY

Clemson's Trevor Lawrence continues to hold the lead in the weekly USA TODAY Network Heisman survey. He tossed five more TD passes last week as the Tigers routed Georgia Tech, though he did throw his first interception of the season. Alabama's Mac Jones was every bit as impressive in the win against Georgia. He moved a few points closer to Lawrence and added three first-place votes. Jones' first pass was picked off, but he bounced back to add four TDs.

Player, school, position, year	1st	2nd	3rd	Pts
Trevor Lawrence, Clemson, QB, Jr.	17	5	0	61
Mac Jones, Alabama, QB, Jr.	5	13	1	42
Zach Wilson, BYU, QB, Jr.	0	2	7	11
Kyle Trask, Florida, QB, Sr.	0	0	5	5
Najee Harris, Alabama, RB, Sr.	0	0	4	4
DeVonta Smith, Alabama, WR, Sr.	0	1	0	2
Jaylen Waddle, Alabama, WR/KR, Jr.	0	1	0	2
Shane Buechele, SMU, QB, Sr.	0	0	1	1
Travis Etienne, Clemson, RB, Sr.	0	0	1	1
Justin Fields, QB, Ohio State, Jr.	0	0	1	1
Khalil Herbert, Va Tech, RB, Sr.	0	0	1	1
Kyle Pitts, Florida, TE, Jr.	0	0	1	1

First place 3 points, second 2 points, third 1 point

Corrections & Clarifications

The football team that Danny Gonzales coaches was incorrect in a feature in the Oct. 14 edition on Latinos in college and high schools. He coaches at New Mexico.

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AT&T's rights to display the channels listed below (in alphabetical order) are set to expire. While AT&T has the rights, these channels will continue to be available to U-verse subscribers. If reasonable agreements cannot be reached with the programmers, these channels will no longer be available. AT&T also may modify these channel locations by moving them to channels between 9501 - 9599:

Previously noticed channels (Channel numbers listed below in parentheses):

aapka Colors (3712); Boomerang (327); Boomerang en Espanol (3053); Cartoon Network - West (326 and 1326 in HD); Cartoon Network (325 and 1325 in HD); CNN (Cable News Network) (202 and 1202 in HD); CNN en Espanol (3110); CNN Headline News (203 and 1203 in HD); CNNI (CNN International) (205); CTI-Zhong Tian (3604); Eleven Sports Network (1665); Estrella (3024); Heroes & Icons (137 and 1137 in HD); HITN (3055); MBC America (3643); MeTV (136 and 1136 in HD); MTV India (3709); NHK World TV HD (1221 and 1379); SUR (3111); TBS - West (113 and 1113 in HD); TBS (112 and 1112 in HD); TNT (Turner Network Television) - West (109 and 1109 in HD); TNT (Turner Network Television) (108 and 1108 in HD); truTV - West (165 and 1165 in HD); truTV (164 and 1164 in HD); Turner Classic Movies (TCM) (790 and 1790 in HD); VivaTV Plus (3690); World Fishing Network HD (1679). **Local Channels:** Atlanta area, WATL (36 and 1036 in HD); WXIA (11 and 1011 in HD); Augusta-Aiken area, WFXG (11 and 1011 in HD); Austin area, KVUE (3 and 1003 in HD); Charlotte area, WAXN (64 and 1064 in HD); WCNC (36 and 1036 in HD); Chattanooga area, WRCB (3 and 1003 in HD); Chicago area, WCUI (10 and 1010 in HD); WESVL (45 and 3024 and 1045 in HD); WMEU (48); WMEUCA (49); WMEUCA (24); Cleveland-Akron (Canton) area, WKYC (3 and 1003 in HD); Columbia, SC area, WLTX (19 and 1019 in HD); Columbus, OH area, WBNS (10 and 1010 in HD); Corpus Christi area, KILI (3 and 1003 in HD); Dallas-Ft. Worth area, KMPX (29 and 3024 and 1029 in HD); WFAA (8 and 1008 in HD); Ft. Smith-Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers area, KFSM (5 and 1005 in HD); Grand Rapids-Kalamazoo-Battle Creek area, WZZM

2020 WORLD SERIES RAYS VERSUS DODGERS

Contrasting styles featured in best vs. best

Gabe Lacques
USA TODAY

ARLINGTON, Texas – It is the best against the best, and Major League Baseball can’t often say that about its jewel event.

For the first time since 2013, the teams with the best records in their respective leagues will meet in the World Series. And the Rays and the Dodgers were both so dominant in this pandemic-shortened season, it’s hard to say the results would have been much different had they played more than the 60 regular-season games.

So what happens when the platoon-happy, heat-bringing Rays match up against the star-laden, October-seasoned, title-starved Dodgers?

With Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman having fingerprints on both clubs, and his protégé, trade-happy Rays general manager Erik Neander espousing similar philosophies, these clubs should have a good feel for one another.

Yet their paths to victory will diverge significantly. Here’s a breakdown of the whens and whats and whys – and who wins – in this neutral-site Fall Classic:

Schedule, projected starters

All games at Globe Life Field, 8:08 or 8:09 ET, on Fox. * if necessary

Game 1, Tuesday: Rays (Tyler Glasnow, 5-1, 4.08 ERA) at Dodgers (Clayton Kershaw, 6-2, 2.16 ERA)

Game 2, Wednesday: Rays (Blake Snell, 4-2, 3.24 ERA) at Dodgers (TBA)

Game 3, Friday: Dodgers (Walker Buehler, 1-0, 3.44 ERA) at Rays (Charlie Morton, 2-2, 4.74 ERA)

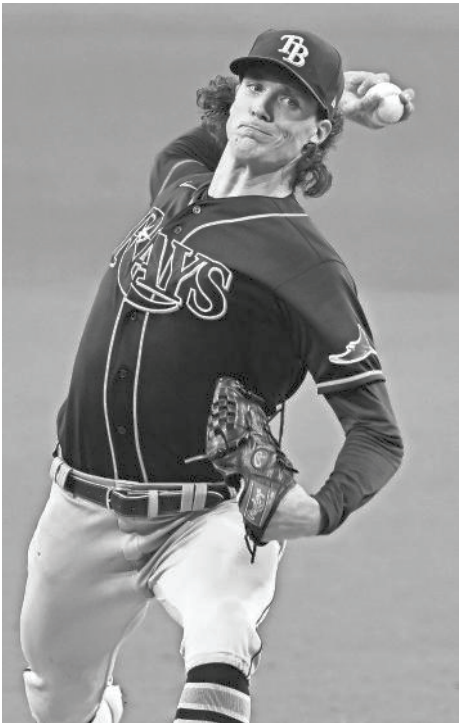
Game 4, Saturday: Dodgers (Julio Urias, 3-0, 3.27 ERA) at Rays (TBA)

***Game 5, Sunday:** Dodgers at Rays
***Game 6, Oct. 27:** Rays at Dodgers
***Game 7, Oct. 28:** Rays at Dodgers

The Rays will win ...

Because they have the most dominant pitcher: Glasnow will start Game 1 and, presumably, Game 5 against Kershaw and will bring an overpowering repertoire and bat-missing ability that should play well in this series. Glasnow struck out 14 batters per nine innings this year and clearly overcame 2019 American League Division Series woes by beating the Yankees in a pivotal ALDS game and coming back on two days rest to toss 2 ½ scoreless innings in the decisive Game 5.

Because The Stable is no joke: Manager Kevin Cash’s “stable full of guys who throw 98 mph” in the bullpen have got them this far, surviving a perilous



Tyler Glasnow, 5-1 with 91 strikeouts and a 4.08 ERA in 11 starts this season, will pitch the opener for the Rays.

JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY SPORTS

playoff stretch of 12 games in 13 days. With two days off before the World Series, and off days after Games 2 and 5, this ought to feel like a relative breeze. It’s true: The mix-and-match formula that saw 12 Rays earn saves during the regular season transferred crisply to October: Diego Castillo, Pete Fairbanks and Nick Anderson earned saves in the AL Championship Series against the Astros. They leaned hard on Anderson in the first two rounds, tabbing him for 7 ½ innings of relief against Toronto and the Yankees, and he was diminished against Houston, giving up four runs in 4 ½ innings, including a walk-off homer to Carlos Correa. We envision a rejuvenated Anderson against the Dodgers.

Because Cash is money: He was panned for his quick hooks of Snell and Morton in the ALCS – one move back-firing, the other resulting in a Game 7 victory – but Cash is a master at capturing matchups and getting Anderson and other top arms into high-leverage situations regardless of inning. Now in his sixth year, he brings a startling level of conviction to what’s now a very complex job – particularly when the Rays have just three standard starting pitchers. His aces might chafe at times. But few managers match his ability to push the right buttons – or his chutzpah to defend the moves that go sideways.

The Dodgers will win ...

Because they are so hard to kill:



Mookie Betts hit .292 with 16 home runs and 39 RBI and stole 10 bases during the regular season for the Dodgers.

KEVIN JAIRA/J/USA TODAY SPORTS

Figuratively, of course, and that goes for within a series and every plate appearance. In roaring back from a 3-1 National League Championship Series deficit to the Braves, they put to rest any notion a group that’s won eight consecutive division titles grew too complacent. And in chewing through Atlanta’s pitching the second time around in that series, they displayed the next-level plate discipline that compelled manager Dave Roberts to call this his best team yet.

Three Dodgers regulars – Max Muncy, Cody Bellinger and Chris Taylor – saw more pitches per plate appearance than the league average, and Muncy’s 4.43 pitches per time up ranked fourth in the major leagues. Their 4-3, Game 7 conquest of the Braves was a master class in plate discipline.

They trailed 2-0 with two outs and nobody on when Justin Turner worked starter Ian Anderson for an eight-pitch walk. Two batters later, Will Smith hit a tying two-run single.

Kiké Hernandez’s game-tying homer? An eight-pitch at-bat. Same with Cody Bellinger’s pennant-winning shot in the seventh, which came with two outs.

In the Dodgers’ four NLCS victories, 20 of their 29 runs – 69% - came with two outs. The lesson: You’re never totally out of the woods.

Because they are patient – but can also hit: This is no “three true outcomes” team, although the Dodgers can hit, walk and strike out with any team.

Lest we forget, Mookie Betts is a batting champ and career .301 hitter. Justin Turner has four .300 seasons to his credit (including this shortened year), and Bellinger posted a .305/.406 on-base year in his 2019 MVP campaign.

Playoff hero Smith batted .289 this year and walked nearly as many times (20) as he struck out (22).

Batting average is empty, you say? Maybe over 162 games. But in facing elite, precise pitching in the playoffs, the ability to put the ball in play against precise, elite pitching – or at least extend the at-bat – takes on a far greater value.

Because Walker Buehler is a big-game pitcher: Buehler’s Game 6 performance – including his stunning escape from a bases-loaded, no-out jam – was the latest in a chapter of save-the-season efforts. Buehler is 26 now, no stranger to postseason pressure – not after he won a Game 163 to clinch the 2018 NL West title, not after sterling performances in Game 7 of the 2018 NLCS and Game 3 of the 2018 World Series, both Dodger victories.

He has 73 strikeouts over his first 10 postseason appearances, which ranks eighth all time on a list headed by Bob Gibson. He’ll likely start Game 3 and a possible Game 7, and good luck betting against him.

The X-factors

Kenley Jansen and Clayton Kershaw. The only players around for all eight division titles and every last postseason gut punch, their stock continues to fluctuate.

Kershaw had a fantastic regular season and two excellent playoff starts before wobbling in NLCS Game 4, a start delayed by back spasms.

Jansen nearly pitched the Dodgers into peril against the Padres in the NLDS – and then found his rhythm in time to close out a pair of NLCS victories.

Have they regained all the significant leash Roberts has afforded them? We’ll find out.

Prediction

Forget the lack of a revenge angle Dodgers-Astros would have produced. This will be a tightly contested, fun and – to those uninitiated to the trappings of the modern game – fascinating World Series. Yet for all the Rays’ ability to match the Dodgers in the aggregate, and platoon and match up and pester and endure, there is just too much talent on the other side of the field. A 32-year streak is broken – perhaps with the embattled Kershaw earning the decisive victory.

Dodgers in 5.

Nightengale

Continued from Page 1C

were separated from their families and quarantined beginning the final week of the season, and they couldn’t return home until their teams were eliminated. So now the Dodgers and the Rays are left standing in seclusion in a Dallas suburban resort for the World Series.

“It was very challenging,” said Rays veteran starting pitcher Charlie Morton. “You adhere to the protocols. You make sacrifices. You don’t see your family. Guys are social distancing from their families at home, sleeping in different rooms, telling their kids they can’t hug them. This has brought out a level of humanity and empathy that we wouldn’t have seen in a regular season.”

This 2020 season had the fewest regular-season games played in history, and it will have the most postseason games in history.

This season was the first with no fans in the stands until the National League Championship Series. This will be the first time the Rays will see fans all year, and with the capacity limited to less than 11,500, it might feel like a home game at Tropicana Field. The Dodgers will play in front of a sea of empty seats but will hear their raucous fans, who traveled to Texas.

The environment will be like no other, but it will be a real World Series.

“If you asked me before the season, I would say no, that a World Series championship wouldn’t feel the same because they won’t have gone through a 162-game grind,” Price said. “My answer has changed now because of how tough this season has been and the sacrifices that have been made by the players. These players and training staffs and organizations deserve a lot of credit. The 2020 champion is going to be remem-



Pitcher David Price put the health of his family first and decided not to play this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY SPORTS

bered for a very long time for what they have gone through.”

There’s a brotherhood that every championship team experiences, no matter how long the players have been together, whether they were stars or

bench players, or what kind of performance they had during the World Series. This one, where social distancing has been mandatory, with players not even sitting together in the dugout or dressing in the same clubhouse, still brought

a unique cohesiveness.

“I know we haven’t been able to be around family, but I feel this team is family,” said Dodgers All-Star right fielder Mookie Betts, who won a World Series with Price in Boston, before being traded together in February. “We spent so much time together at the hotel, here at the field, and no one is getting tired of each other. I couldn’t ask for a better group of guys, going through this season with COVID (protocols). It hasn’t been so bad because we have these guys.”

Now, with quarantined family members permitted to stay with them at their hotel, and family and friends allowed to be in the stands, with real fans, there’s a true sense of normalcy.

“It’s been tough in so many ways,” Rays center fielder Kevin Kiermaier said. “There was a lot asked from all of us. This is a test. You like to see how the group of guys around you act when life throws you a curveball.”

For the first time all season, there will be a real celebration on the field and in the clubhouse, champagne sprays and all, when this best-of-seven series ends.

“We’ve done a great job making it as fun as possible,” Rays catcher Mike Zunino said. “There’s confetti, silly string. We tried to embrace it for what it’s worth. But I’ll tell you what, there’s nothing better than popping bottles, and wearing goggles, and it’s still seeping in and burning through there and burning your eyes.

“There’s one time we get to do that, and that’s winning the World Series.”

Take it from the last man to beat the Dodgers in the 2018 World Series, throwing the final pitch and celebrating with his teammates two years before the world was turned upside down.

“You really enjoy the burn of champagne,” Price said. “I don’t like the taste of it. It burns your eyes so bad. But it feels so good.

“I’m going to miss that.”

After 10 tour years, Kokrak tops field

Steve DiMeglio
Golfweek | USA TODAY Network

NORTH LAS VEGAS – Jason Kokrak sure didn’t look like a desperate, veteran journeyman in search of his first PGA Tour title in the final round of the CJ Cup at Shadow Creek.

Instead, he was far from trembling in an unaccustomed spot in the penultimate group Sunday and strode the fairways looking every bit the man who has been there before on a regular basis. He wasn’t the least put off when one of the members of the group, Jason Day, withdrew with a stiff neck on the second hole and forced Kokrak and then his lone playing partner, world No. 8 Xander Schauffele, to alter their pace of play.

And Kokrak was all sorts of calm out-dueling Schauffele and holding off the three players in the final group on the back nine. Behind a scorching putter, Kokrak, 35 and ranked No. 53 in the world, cracked the winner’s circle for the first time in 232 starts on the tour as a pro with a bogey-free, course-record-tying, 8-under-par 64 to win by two shots. With rounds of 70-66-68-64, Kokrak, who started the week as an 80-1 long shot, finished at 20-under 268.

“Ten years out here on the PGA Tour’s been a long career so far, so to wait so long for my first win, it’s a pretty special thing,” Kokrak said. “I said this signing my scorecard, if you’re not nervous, you’re not alive. I definitely had some nerves going. A little scar tissue from previous missed wins here and there but called upon those. I think anytime that you’ve been out here for that length of time, you definitely have doubts in your mind.

“As good as my ball-striking is and as hard as I’ve been working with my coach, Drew Steckel; a little short game work with Jeff Pierce; my caddie, David Robinson. I think between the team I’ve got in place, it was inevitable that it was going to happen. I just tried to go out there today, hit a lot of fairways, give myself a lot of opportunities and just let that first win come to me.”

Kokrak, who made six birdies in a



Jason Kokrak earned entry into the Tournament of Champions, Players, Masters and PGA. KELVIN KUO/USA TODAY

seven-hole stretch starting on the fifth, led the field in strokes gained: putting and in the final round sank birdie putts of 7, 10, 6, 5, 18, 20, 17 and 3 feet. He added gut-check par putts from 4 on the 16th and 3 on the 17th.

It helps that he’s played Shadow Creek at least 20 times as an ambassador for MGM Resorts, which owns the course.

“Very happy with how I’ve been putting and kind of paying off with all the work I’ve been putting in,” said Kokrak, whose best previous finish was second on three occasions, the most recent in the 2019 Valspar Championship.

Schauffele, who stumbled with a 74 in the third round after taking the 36-hole lead, shot 66 to finish at 18 under. He pulled into a tie for the lead on the fifth hole and tied for the lead again by sinking a 43-foot putt from off the fringe for birdie on the 13th. But he was stymied when a poor drive near a tree in the rough led to a bogey on 16. “It was a good fight,” he said.

Russell Henley, who led by three entering the final round, shot 70 to finish at 17 under. He was joined there by Tyrrell Hatton, who closed with a 65.

Alex Bowman ‘still here fighting’ in Cup playoffs

Kelly Crandall
Racer Magazine | USA TODAY Network

Alex Bowman heard the chatter of how he wouldn’t be around long in the NASCAR Cup Series playoffs.

Sunday afternoon, after finishing third at Kansas Speedway to open the Round of 8, Bowman said he turned those predictions into a chip on his shoulder. “A lot of people said we were going to go out early in the playoffs,” said Bowman. “We’re still here fighting. We’re still bringing really fast cars to the racetrack each and every week.”

While a top-five run in the Hollywood Casino 400 was a good day for Bowman, he left both happy and sad. He was “a little bit bummed” to lose points and fall further behind a transfer spot because of a Joey Logano victory. With Logano jumping from below the cutline to an automatic championship race berth, it makes “life harder” for Bowman, now in a 27-point hole.

Bowman finished sixth in Stage 1 at Kansas and fourth in Stage 2. In the final few laps of the race, as Logano blocked and took the lanes away from Kevin Harvick, Bowman closed within a few car lengths but said he ran out of time to stick his nose into the battle.

Kansas was Bowman’s fifth top-10 finish in seven playoff races. It was his second top-five finish.

“I use that as a lot of motivation,” Bowman said of the critics. “I love it. Honestly, if people want to motivate me, just talk crap about me on the internet. It works pretty well. I do think my team is a little bit undervalued. They’re one of the best race teams in the garage; they make up for me not being very good at some of these places, give me some pretty great race cars to drive. I think we definitely have a little bit of a chip on our shoulder. I think those laps, a couple of laps go a little bit differently, and we could very well be going to Phoenix to race for a championship. I feel like we’re right there, right where we need to be. Everybody is doing a really good job.”

Bowman secured his playoff berth



Alex Bowman has five top-10 finishes in the first seven Cup Series playoff races. DAVID WALLACE/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

ROUND OF 8 STANDINGS

1. Kevin Harvick 4,115
 2. Denny Hamlin 4,094
 3. Brad Keselowski 4,082
 4. Chase Elliott 4,074
 5. Joey Logano* 4,064
 6. Alex Bowman 4,055
 7. Martin Truex Jr. 4,051
 8. Kurt Busch 4,009
- *Climched Championship 4 berth with win Sunday

with a win in March at Fontana – before the sport paused because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But his strong start to the season gave way to inconsistency about a month after the sport’s resumption, and Bowman didn’t earn back-to-back top-10 finishes for the first time until August at Dover and Daytona.

“I’m really proud of our race team,” said Bowman. “The summer was really tough. We were able to switch it back on a couple of weeks before the playoffs. Ever since then, we’ve been firing on all cylinders, bringing great race cars to the racetrack, executing really well. Bristol (16th) and Talladega (14th), we had some issues, but other than that, really, really good each week.”

This season is the first time Bowman has made the Round of 8.

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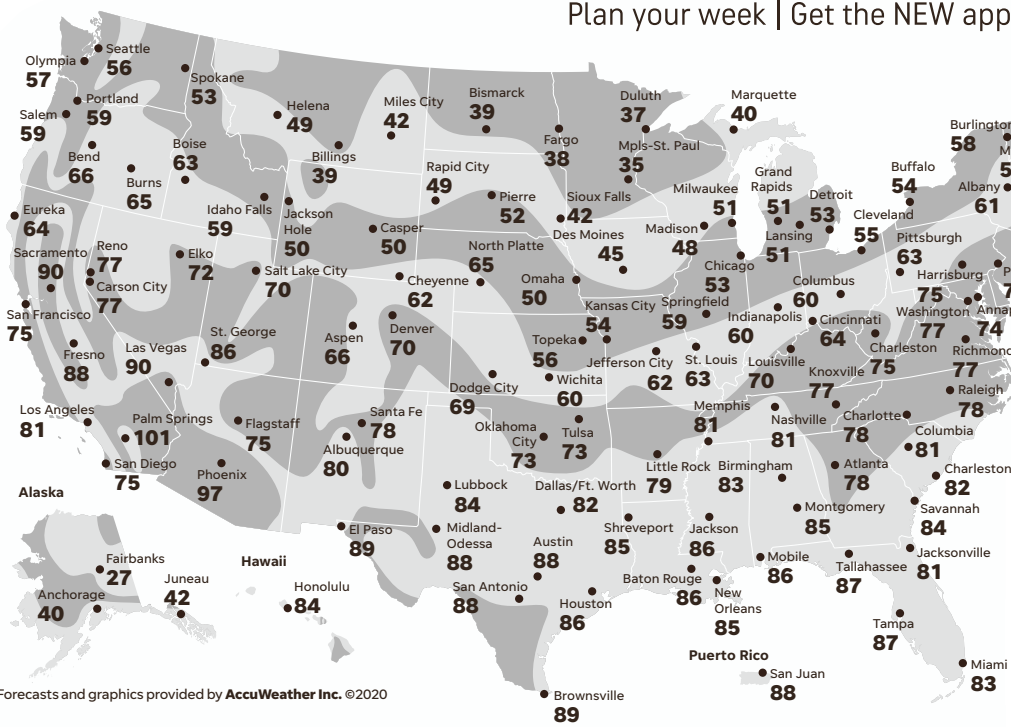
TODAY’S FORECAST

A storm system moving across the **North Central** states will bring accumulating snow from the eastern **Dakotas** to northern **Wisconsin** today. A narrow strip of several inches of snow is expected from central **Minnesota** into northern **Wisconsin**.

Meanwhile, a chilly rain will fall to the south in portions of the mid-**Mississippi Valley**. Showers will also stretch across the interior **Northeast**.

It will be dry and mild closer to the coast in the **Northeast** to the mid-**Atlantic**. A stiff easterly breeze will increase the surf and rip current risk in eastern **Florida**.

TODAY’S HIGH TEMPERATURES

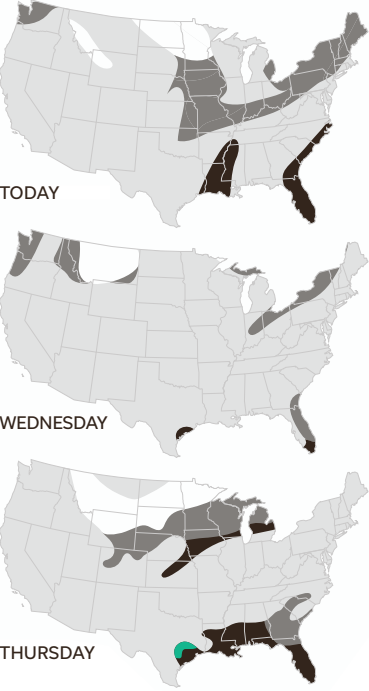


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PRECIPITATION FORECAST

● T-storms ● Rain ○ Snow ● Ice/mix



TOP TRAVEL CITIES

Air quality index (AQI)

ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	BOSTON	CHARLOTTE	CHICAGO	DALLAS/FT. WORTH	DENVER	DETROIT	HONOLULU	HOUSTON	LAS VEGAS	LOS ANGELES
TUE Partly sunny 78/63	TUE Partly sunny 76/59	TUE Partly sunny 70/57	TUE Partly sunny 78/61	TUE Cloudy spells 53/47	TUE Warmer 82/68	TUE Partly sunny 70/39	TUE Partly sunny 53/48	TUE Spotty showers 84/74	TUE Partly sunny 86/70	TUE Sunny, warm 90/62	TUE Some sun 81/61
WED Partly sunny 80/65	WED Mostly sunny 78/59	WED Partly sunny 66/59	WED Partly sunny 80/60	WED Rather cloudy 60/52	WED Partly sunny 84/69	WED Mostly sunny 71/52	WED Partly sunny 64/49	WED Partly sunny 86/73	WED Partly sunny 86/70	WED Sunny 91/61	WED Some sun 80/63
THU Rather cloudy 79/65	THU Some sun 78/59	THU Mostly sunny 71/52	THU Partly sunny 79/60	THU Partly sunny 76/61	THU Partly sunny 86/67	THU Windy 65/20	THU Clearing 68/59	THU Partly sunny 87/73	THU Mostly cloudy 87/70	THU Sunny 87/59	THU Partly sunny 75/63
AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Unhealthy s/g	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate
MIAMI	MPLS.-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON
TUE T-storm 83/77	TUE 3-6" of snow 35/31	TUE Mostly cloudy 85/72	TUE Partly sunny 70/61	TUE Stray t-storm 85/73	TUE Partly sunny 75/61	TUE Sunny, nice 97/67	TUE Sunny, nice 70/47	TUE Some sun 75/63	TUE Partly sunny 75/56	TUE Cloudy 56/46	TUE Partly sunny 77/63
WED Stray t-storm 83/78	WED Not as cold 41/35	WED Partly sunny 84/73	WED Shower 71/62	WED Stray t-storm 84/73	WED Mostly sunny 75/60	WED Sunny, hot 97/67	WED Sunny, warm 74/44	WED Partly sunny 74/64	WED Sunny 75/56	WED An A.M. shower 52/39	WED Mostly sunny 79/62
THU Stray t-storm 85/77	THU Rain 46/34	THU T-storm 83/73	THU Partly sunny 74/60	THU Stray t-storm 85/73	THU Partly sunny 77/61	THU Sunny, warm 94/66	THU Cooler 52/32	THU Partly sunny 74/64	THU Mostly sunny 75/54	THU Partly sunny 52/40	THU Partly sunny 80/62
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good

c Cloudy f Fog i Ice r Rain s Snowflurries sn Snow w Windy dr Drizzle h Haze

pc Partly cloudy s Sunny sh Showers t Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES	TODAY	WED
Akron, Ohio	57/54c	73/58c
Albany, N.Y.	61/49r	71/55c
Albuquerque	80/48s	79/50s
Allentown, Pa.	71/55pc	73/55pc
Amarillo, Texas	83/52s	82/59s
Anaheim, Calif.	84/62s	81/63pc
Anchorage, Alaska	40/28pc	38/28s
Aspen, Colo.	66/33s	68/36s
Atlantic City, N.J.	73/65pc	71/62pc
Augusta, Ga.	84/66c	86/64t
Austin, Texas	88/70t	88/69t
Bakersfield, Calif.	87/60s	87/59s
Baton Rouge, La.	86/65c	87/68pc
Billings, Mont.	39/30pc	39/21sn
Birmingham, Ala.	83/62pc	84/66pc
Bismarck, N.D.	39/20c	39/26pc
Boise, Idaho	63/44pc	64/31pc
Buffalo, N.Y.	54/48c	67/52r
Burlington, Vt.	58/46r	63/51r
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	46/36sh	53/44sh
Charleston, S.C.	82/69t	83/67s
Charleston, W.Va.	75/54c	80/53pc
Cheyenne, Wyo.	62/36pc	68/40pc

TODAY	WED
Cincinnati	64/60sh 77/59c
Cleveland	55/52c 69/57c
Colorado Springs	75/38pc 71/49s
Columbia, S.C.	81/65pc 84/64t
Columbus, Ohio	60/57c 75/57c
Corpus Christi, Texas	88/71s 86/71t
Dayton, Ohio	62/59c 72/58c
Daytona Beach, Fla.	85/76t 85/74sh
Des Moines, Iowa	45/36c 52/47sh
Duluth, Minn.	37/29sn 40/28c
Durham, N.C.	76/61s 78/60pc
El Paso, Texas	89/56s 90/58s
Fairbanks, Alaska	27/17c 30/11pc
Flagstaff, Ariz.	75/34s 72/38s
Fargo, N.D.	38/25sn 40/27c
Fort Myers, Fla.	83/73t 83/73t
Fort Smith, Ark.	78/64pc 85/64pc
Fort Wayne, Ind.	55/50pc 65/55sh
Fresno, Calif.	88/59s 88/60s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	51/45c 58/44c
Green Bay, Wis.	47/38r 48/37pc
Greensboro, N.C.	76/59pc 77/58pc
Greenville, S.C.	76/58pc 78/60pc
Harrisburg, Pa.	75/59c 79/58pc

TODAY	WED
Hartford, Conn.	69/56c 73/58pc
Indianapolis	60/57c 67/58c
Islip, N.Y.	69/59pc 69/60pc
Jackson, Miss.	86/62c 87/66s
Jacksonville, Fla.	81/71t 82/70pc
Jefferson City, Mo.	62/51r 68/63c
Kansas City	54/43r 60/57c
Key West, Fla.	84/77t 86/79t
Knoxville, Tenn.	77/52pc 79/56pc
Laredo, Texas	92/73s 90/71pc
Lexington, Ky.	70/57c 78/55pc
Lincoln, Neb.	54/37pc 54/47sh
Little Rock, Ark.	79/61t 84/62s
Long Beach, Calif.	76/63pc 76/63pc
Louisville, Ky.	70/62sh 81/62pc
Lubbock, Texas	84/56pc 85/60s
Madison, Wis.	48/39pc 50/44pc
Manchester, N.H.	66/53c 68/56pc
Memphis, Tenn.	81/64pc 84/65s
Milwaukee	51/45c 56/49pc
Mobile, Ala.	86/66pc 86/55s
Modesto, Calif.	87/55r 87/56s
Montgomery, Ala.	85/65pc 85/68pc
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	79/68t 79/66s

TODAY	WED
Nags Head, N.C.	73/66s 73/65pc
Nashville, Tenn.	81/59c 83/62s
Newark, N.J.	73/61pc 73/60pc
New Haven, Conn.	70/60pc 70/61pc
Norfolk, Va.	76/66pc 77/64pc
Oakland, Calif.	78/57s 78/57s
Oklahoma City	73/59c 82/66pc
Omaha, Neb.	50/35c 54/47sh
Palm Springs, Calif.	101/70s 97/67s
Pensacola, Fla.	86/69pc 84/77pc
Pierre, S.D.	52/30c 46/33c
Pittsburgh	63/57r 76/55c
Portland, Maine	61/49c 58/52sh
Portland, Ore.	59/48c 57/39pc
Providence, R.I.	70/58pc 71/58pc
Raleigh, N.C.	78/62s 79/60pc
Rapid City, S.D.	49/30w 47/27c
Reno, Nev.	77/42pc 76/37s
Richmond, Va.	77/63pc 78/60s
Rochester, N.Y.	52/47r 69/50c
Sacramento, Calif.	90/54s 89/55s
San Antonio	88/71pc 86/71t
San Jose, Calif.	83/57s 84/55s
Santa Fe, N.M.	78/40s 77/41s

TODAY	WED
Sarasota, Fla.	88/75t 86/75t
Savannah, Ga.	84/71t 84/68t
Scottsdale, Ariz.	96/64s 95/66s
Shreveport, La.	85/65c 86/65pc
Sioux Falls, S.D.	42/29r 44/38c
South Bend, Ind.	54/50pc 61/51c
Spokane, Wash.	53/35pc 47/26pc
Springfield, Mo.	70/58c 81/63c
Springfield, Ill.	59/49sh 65/59c
St. Louis	63/56c 70/64c
St. Petersburg, Fla.	87/76t 86/75t
Syracuse, N.Y.	57/48r 73/50c
Tallahassee, Fla.	87/71pc 85/72sh
Tampa, Fla.	87/75t 86/75t
Toledo, Ohio	55/52pc 66/56pc
Toledo, Kan.	56/42r 61/58c
Tucson, Ariz.	95/60s 96/64s
Tupelo, Miss.	84/60pc 85/64s
Tulsa, Okla.	73/60sh 84/68pc
Virginia Beach, Va.	75/65pc 75/62c
Wichita, Kan.	60/49c 74/62c
Wilmington, Del.	74/59pc 75/59s
Winston-Salem, N.C.	76/57pc 77/57pc
Worcester, Mass.	67/56c 67/57pc

WORLD CITIES

TODAY	WED
Beijing	66/49h 62/35s
Buenos Aires	60/56sh 63/58w
Cancun, Mexico	86/76t 86/76t
Dubai, UAE	94/75h 96/75h
Frankfurt	60/50c 67/55pc
Hong Kong	84/71s 83/71pc
Istanbul	67/61pc 70/59pc
Jerusalem	81/63s 77/60s
Johannesburg	89/59s 80/55s
London	66/56pc 62/52r
Mexico City	75/52s 75/49pc
Montreal	53/42r 57/46r
Moscow	39/31r 39/35r
Mumbai, India	89/80t 91/81t
Paris	61/57r 70/57r
Rio de Janeiro	81/72pc 81/72s
Rome	68/48s 69/50pc
Seoul	71/48h 67/50c
Singapore	88/79r 88/78t
Sydney	68/59pc 73/64pc
Toronto	52/45c 64/47r
Tokyo	66/57pc 67/60pc

49ers rely on resiliency to bounce back



Mike Jones
Columnist
USA TODAY

This time a week ago, as the 49ers returned to team headquarters after a 43-17 throttling at the hands of the Dolphins, Kyle Shanahan could sense anger and embarrassment from his players as they re-watched the debacle and then sought ways to put it behind them.

Rampant injuries had led to a rough start to the Super Bowl runner-up’s season, but the 49ers couldn’t even use poor health as an excuse in that loss in Miami. They had played terribly in just about every facet of the game.

That frustration continued to permeate throughout the locker room, and the players used it as fuel during their preparation for a crucial meeting with the NFC West-rival Rams. The payoff came in the form of a 24-16 victory that evened the 49ers’ record at 3-3.

The victory came as no surprise to the 49ers. Players and coaches said that, given the sense of urgency and attention to detail they sensed on the practice field and in meetings last week, they held a strong belief they would win.

Shanahan set the tone early on Sunday night, orchestrating an aggressive and diverse offensive attack that gave the 49ers a first-quarter lead they only built on. Shanahan’s unit rediscovered the recipe of balance that makes the offense click at its best. San Francisco’s defense followed suit and held a potent Rams offense to just two touchdowns while recording one takeaway (a Jason Verrett interception in the end zone).

A .500 record with 11 games left on the schedule isn’t cause for celebration, but the victory did carry great significance, as San Francisco took steps toward regaining its offensive identity while seeing numerous defensive players step up for injured starters.

“Just getting back to the brand of



49ers tight end George Kittle celebrates after scoring on a 44-yard touchdown reception against the Rams. KYLE TERADA/USA TODAY SPORTS

football we know we’re capable of playing,” defensive lineman Arik Armstead told reporters Sunday. “Running the ball, moving the chains, taking the life out of a defense, and then on defense, big stops, three-and-outs, eliminating explosives, making them drive all the way down the field to beat us. I think we just got back to playing like we know how to play.”

And of equal importance, San Francisco avoided falling further behind the 5-0 Seattle Seahawks, 4-2 Rams and 3-2 Arizona Cardinals.

Injuries struck again, bringing more uncertainty as the team awaits word on running back Raheem Mostert, center Ben Garland and safety Jaquiski Tarrt.

But on Sunday, San Francisco’s players could at least take comfort in the fact that they had pulled off a potentially

season-saving victory.

They hope that such a win, and the contributions that made it possible, will help provide much-needed momentum as they embark on a stretch that features road games against New England, Seattle, Green Bay, New Orleans and the Rams, as well as home games against Green Bay and Buffalo.

Shanahan deserves credit for pushing the right buttons and getting his team to respond to last week’s blowout loss with an effective performance against the Rams. So, too, do the locker room leaders who echoed the coaching staff’s message.

“Whenever guys are holding each other or themselves accountable, it’s a good thing,” said quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, who rebounded from a two-interception showing against Miami

while still recovering from a high-ankle sprain to throw for three touchdown passes against Los Angeles. “The NFL is hard. Not every week is going to be fun or pretty. When the captains have the mindset and set the tone, it trickles down to everyone else.”

Given the 49ers’ rash of injuries and the fashion in which they lost to the Dolphins, a Week 6 loss to the Rams, who entered the game having won two straight and four of their last five, wouldn’t have surprised anyone. But instead, San Francisco delivered while exhibiting strong mental fortitude, which Shanahan and Co. knew would be necessary this season.

The 49ers understand that they’re in the midst of one of pro football’s toughest tests. Whether the Super Bowl hangover is mythical or real, teams that lose in the NFL’s championship game often seem to encounter some kind of very real adversity in their quests for redemption.

Only eight teams in NFL history have returned to the Super Bowl the year after losing, and many runner-ups struggle just to make it to the playoffs the following year.

Health concerns seemingly will test the 49ers’ ability to contend for a Lombardi Trophy this season. Until the team returns as close to full force as possible, the roster’s depth will be challenged.

Shanahan and general manager John Lynch have worked to fortify their core with smart drafts and free agency classes, and now they’re in the process of finding out how effective they have been in producing quality depth.

Meanwhile, San Francisco’s players understand this challenge is as much mental as it is physical. They also are aware that they must maintain the same type of steely focus going forward that they applied to their preparation for the Rams game, because they still have plenty of ground to make up.

“This will give us a little momentum,” Garoppolo said. “But next week will be another dogfight.”

Bell

Continued from Page 1C

legendary quarterbacks.

Then came the game.

“Everything that was said about Aaron Rodgers ... the intensity was different,” Dean said. “I had to match that intensity.”

Bowles came up with a whale of a plan, with the constant pressure on Rodgers boosted by blitzes and mixed alignments on the defensive front keeping the crafty quarterback guessing. With White and fellow inside linebacker Lavonte David shooting gaps and flowing to the sidelines (they combined for 18 tackles, five of which came behind the line of scrimmage), the Bucs’ D simply took over the game.

After the first quarter, Tampa Bay’s defense stopped Green Bay on 10 consecutive possessions.

As Packers coach Matt LaFleur acknowledged, “We just didn’t have answers.”

This was surely all part of a bigger picture. By smashing one of the hottest teams in the league, the Bucs delivered a statement that amplified exactly what Bruce Arians & Co. are trying to build.

Just think of what the Bucs (4-2) can be when they are clicking. Now the Packers can vouch for that.

Sure, TB12 is the attention-grabbing focal point. But if Brady has the type of support he received on Sunday, look out. The Bucs will be real contenders.

Brady was efficient if not prolific against Green Bay. He didn’t throw a pick and was never caught losing track of the downs as he was at the end of the Week 5 loss to the Bears. Having healthy receivers helped, even if Mike Evans and Chris Godwin didn’t light up the stat sheet. Brady got another 100-yard rushing game, the third in a row, from Ronald Jones. Rob Gronkowski had his most productive day as a Buc and scored his first touchdown since rejoining his former Patriots quarterback. The Bucs didn’t allow a sack, either, so there was no sideline cam footage of Brady chewing out offensive linemen.



Buccaneers cornerback Jamel Dean (35) returned an interception for a TD on Sunday against the Packers.

KIM KLEMENT/USA TODAY SPORTS

It was such a complete game for the Bucs that they didn’t even commit a penalty, just the second time that’s happened in franchise history.

And for a team that has known its share of discipline issues in recent years

– the Bucs led the league in penalties last season and were tied for the league lead after Week 5 – it is doubly significant.

Brady will surely take it. No sacks, no penalties, no turnovers. Ideal formula.

It reflects the growth that needs to happen with this team, which lured Brady from New England to replace Jameis Winston, who threw an NFL-high 30 interceptions last season. If the Bucs can eliminate the silly stuff and self-inflicted mishaps, they just might be able to win big with a well-protected Brady.

“I think it’s a pretty big part of every team’s success – not turning the ball over and then not committing penalties, which puts you behind down and distance, take you out of your runs and play-actions,” Brady said. “All those hurt. You’ve got to be able to stay on track and stay ahead of down and distance. That’s the goal for the team.”

Of course, there’s an ultimate goal, too. And, with a big-play defense in tow, the Bucs provided quite the signature blueprint that should make the NFL universe, well, respect their potential.

NFL WEEK 6 32 THINGS WE LEARNED

Upsets, comebacks

Nate Davis
USA TODAY

Each week during the NFL season, Nate Davis looks at the 32 things we learned from the weekend games through Sunday. Here are snippets from Week 6 (see all 32 at nfl.usatoday.com):

1. I like to think I know the NFL – admittedly, some of my favorite Tweeps love to disagree – but days like Sunday serve a needed reminder that one just never knows in this most unpredictable league. Green Bay got trounced by Tampa Bay, the second week in a row the No. 1 team in my power rankings (first the Chiefs, now the Packers) lost. The supposedly resurgent Browns appeared fraudulent. The Dan Quinn-less (and previously winless) Falcons resembled a playoff team. The Patriots fell to 2-3 for the first time since 2001. The Ravens showed why they might be the best team in the league for three quarters ... and then gave up 22 to the Eagles in the final one. Go figure – I’ll certainly continue trying.

4. The Colts trailed the Bengals 21-0 in the second quarter but stormed back to prevail 31-27. At least one team in all

six weeks of this season has surmounted at least a 16-point deficit to win, something that never happened in the league’s first 100 seasons.

7. 2020 scoreboard: Tom Brady 4, Bill Belichick 2.

19. After racking up 212 rushing yards Sunday, Titans RB Derrick Henry became the first man in NFL annals to post a 200-yard effort on the ground in three successive seasons.

21. Given the seeming volatility of this season, don’t count out Detroit just yet. The Lions handled the Jaguars 34-16, Jacksonville the only team they’ve faced that didn’t have at least three wins in the first five weeks.

25. Jon Brown became the fifth kicker to score for the Jags this year, connecting on a 31-year field goal and an extra point. What makes that performances unique for Brown? It marked the first time the 27-year-old, a former college soccer player, had attempted a FG or PAT during a game at any level of football.

26. Speaking of kickers, Denver’s Brandon McManus 18, New England 12. Who says special teams is only one-third of the game?

Chiefs, Edwards-Helaire run away with win over Bills

John Wawrow
The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. – Clyde Edwards-Helaire showed new teammate Le’Veon Bell and the rest of the NFL how dominant the Chiefs’ running attack is already.

The rookie had 161 yards rushing and Patrick Mahomes threw two touchdown passes to Travis Kelce, leading Kansas City to a 26-17 win over the Bills on Monday night in a game that was originally scheduled for last Thursday.

Mahomes finished 21 of 26 for 225 yards. His first scoring toss to Kelce was the 90th of his career in his 37th game, breaking the NFL record for fewest games to 90 TD passes. Hall of Famer Dan Marino had the previous mark at 40 games.

Darrel Williams scored on 13-yard run to cap a nearly eight-minute, 82-yard drive that gave the Chiefs a 20-10 lead with 1:18 left in the third quarter, effectively sealing the game.

The Chiefs are off to their third 5-1 start in four seasons, and they bounced back from a sloppy 40-32 loss to the Raiders on Oct. 11.

Last week, Kansas City added another weapon to its high-powered offense by signing Bell a few days after he was cut by the Jets. Bell is expected to make his debut this weekend at Denver. “I can’t wait,” he tweeted during the game.

Buffalo (4-2) lost its second straight. The Bills fell 42-16 at Tennessee last Tuesday, a game that was moved because of a COVID-19 outbreak on the Titans. That led to the Kansas City-Buffalo game being pushed back as well.

The Chiefs, who were originally scheduled to play three games in 11 days, wound up having two extra days of rest on Buffalo.

The Bills’ Josh Allen finished 14 of 27 for 122 yards with touchdown passes to Stefon Diggs and Cole Beasley.

In what was supposed to be a showdown of the NFL’s top passers, the Chiefs leaned on their running game to help keep the Allen-led Bills cooling their heels on the sideline.

The Chiefs dominated time of possession by more than 15 minutes, rushing 46 times – the most in eight seasons under coach Andy Reid – for 245 yards. It was the first time Kansas City topped 200 yards rushing since Mahomes took over the starting job.



College students across the country need access to laptops to access online classes. At many community colleges, students are borrowing laptops to complete coursework. Access to Wi-Fi remains an issue. MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Some students pushed past their tipping point

Community colleges seeing rise in dropouts

Lindsay Schnell
USA TODAY

Jasmine Justice hit her breaking point during the last week of September. Overwhelmed at the juggling act of three full-time gigs – as a community college student, an employee and a mom – Justice crumbled. She ignored reminder emails from her instructors to send in her assignments. “I wasn’t comprehending what I was reading. I was looking at diagrams that made no sense.” On Zoom work meetings, she noted her pale complexion and dark under-eye circles. Her appetite disappeared. She snapped at her 17-year-old daughter, Josiah, a high school senior also cooped up inside their small apartment. “Being a community college student, it’s a balancing act,” said Justice, 39, a student at Pierce College in Lakewood, Washington, about 50 miles south of Seattle. “And at any moment, the scales could tip.” Across the country, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to upend normalcy and infects Americans, students of every level are trying to adjust to virtual learning and socially distanced schools. But the virus and the ensuing recession have taken a particularly hard toll on community college students like



At Southern State Community College in Ohio, enrollment has dropped 16% even as the campus welcomed students for some in-person learning. SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Justice. They’re often older, balancing school and full-time work. Many are single parents. Statistically, they’re often the first in their family to pursue post-secondary education and likely to come from a lower socioeconomic bracket – which impacts access to distance learning necessities like high-speed internet. And during the pandemic, they’re dropping out or sidelining their educa-

“If faced with, ‘How am I going to put food on the table?’ versus ‘How am I going to take a class at community college?’ we know what one they’re going to pick.”

Martha Parham
At the American Association of Community Colleges

tion plans. For these students, delaying their education could have devastating consequences. Race- and class-based gaps already rampant in college achievement could grow to a gaping chasm, experts fear, long after the virus is under control. “We’ve never experienced anything like (the pandemic) in our lifetime. ... The majority of our students are lower-income earners, and if faced with, ‘How am I going to put food on the table?’ versus ‘How am I going to take a class at community college?’ we know what one they’re going to pick,” said Martha Parham at the American Association of Community Colleges. “We already see evidence that the gap is widening – but how do you plan for that when you’re building the plane in

See DROPPING OUT, Page 2D

4,200 NY kids lose parent to COVID-19

Report: Loss can create obstacles to better life

David Robinson
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

At least 4,200 children in New York had a parent or caregiver killed by COVID-19, and 325,000 children were pushed into or near poverty because of the pandemic’s economic fallout, a study found. The coronavirus crisis disproportionately hit children in communities of color. Black and Hispanic children faced the death of a parent or caregiver at twice the rate of Asian and white children, according to the report by United Hospital Fund, a public health advocacy group.



A student receives a safety package as she arrives for instruction in Yonkers, N.Y., on Oct. 5. TANIA SAVAYAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

“This pandemic is like nothing we’ve ever seen before. The closest comparison in the state would be 9/11, when more than 3,000 children lost a parent,” said Suzanne Brundage, co-author of the report. “Losing a parent or caregiver during childhood raises a child’s risk of developing a range of poor outcomes over their lifetime, including poorer mental and physical health,” she said. Among the findings of the report: ● 1 in 600 Black children and 1 in 700 Hispanic children had a parent or caregiver killed by COVID-19, compared with 1 in 1,400 Asian children and 1 in 1,500 white children. ● Up to 50% of children who lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19 may enter poverty, and up to 23% are at risk of entry into foster or kinship care. ● More than 1 million children had at least one parent lose a job during the pandemic. ● As a result of the job losses, about 325,000 children live in or near poverty, defined as below 200% of the federal poverty level.

See CHILDREN, Page 2D

FACT CHECK

Experts: Face masks don’t deprive the brain of oxygen

Devan Patel
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

COVID-19 has killed more than 1.1 million people worldwide, including more than 219,000 in the USA in less than a year. Despite data that masks slow the spread of the virus, skepticism exists regarding their use. One claim that continues to surface in social media posts is that masks cause oxygen deprivation in the brain. A viral Facebook post transcribing a video message by neurologist Margareta Griesz-Brisson, which was removed by YouTube for violating its terms of service, says masks can cause neurological damage, especially in children. “The rebreathing of our exhaled air will without a doubt create oxygen



Despite internet claims that wearing a mask could lower oxygen levels and cause neurological damage, doctors insist they’re safe for adults and children older than 2. DOLORES OCHOA/AP

See FACE MASKS, Page 2D

DEAR AMERICA, LET’S MANUFACTURE A BETTER FUTURE. LET’S MAKE IT HERE.

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Life Reinforced

Dropping out

Continued from Page 1D

flight for the students you have?” Enrollment is already down 8% nationwide – unusual during a recession – and the economic impact could be significant. Community college programs tend to graduate students who feed directly into the workforce, people like nurses, electricians, mechanics and dental hygienists. In 2012, for example, community college-educated workers added roughly \$800 billion to the U.S. economy.

For Justice, now in her third year at Pierce, the possible effects of the pandemic are more personal.

“College degrees show you are capable of completing something, that you have technical knowledge and not just on-the-job training,” she said. “You wanna be a boss? Then you need letters after your name.”

Online learning brings unexpected expenses

By August, a number of things had gone wrong. After living with and caring for her sick grandmother the last three years, she and Josiah were forced to move to their own apartment when her grandmother’s health deteriorated and she moved to a nursing home. When it became clear schools were going to stay online, Justice purchased at-home internet, another unexpected expense.

She’s fortunate, she said, to have a work laptop she uses for school, though she admits she’s not sure if that’s technically allowed. And the bills are piling up. She’s paying off a car she bought in January. (“It seemed like a good purchase at the time, but now we’re stuck at home,” she said wryly.) She recently spent \$300 on books. A new computer system at Pierce has delayed many loan disbursements, and Justice is still waiting, impatiently, for the rest of her financial aid to come through.

At Pierce, Justice is studying to get her bachelor’s of applied science and business management after earning her associate’s degree in 2016. The three-year gap in her education came because of caring for her grandmother. She works full time at Pierce’s equity and diversity office, constantly counseling students on the brink of giving up to hang on just a little longer.

“I don’t want them to be like me, stopping and pausing their education. I don’t want them to be my age and still trying to get their associate’s degree. It’s like with smokers who quit: If you give in and give up, it’s so hard to start over,” Justice said.

But she recognizes the challenges. Students have panicked about a lack of financial aid, worried about an economy hanging in the balance. At least one confessed to Justice that she’d slept in her car in the school’s parking lot because of money issues. She knows two



At Pierce College, Jasmine Justice, left, counsels fellow students to stay in school despite the struggles. “I don’t want them to be my age and still trying to get their associate’s degree,” she said. PIERCE COLLEGE

students who couldn’t come back this fall because of COVID-19-related issues.

“I don’t know how we’re all holding on, I really don’t,” Justice said. “Community college is like a second chance at life. We all want to better ourselves and our situations ...” Her voice trails off, and she starts crying.

For some, it’s a brutal climb.

No internet, long commutes: Rural students hit especially hard

Community colleges have long prided themselves on access, ideal institutions for someone who might not have the time, money or knowledge to navigate the ins and outs of higher ed. Rural schools have been hit especially hard this fall, as they frequently serve a population of students who commute, sometimes long distances, and often don’t have internet service at home. According to the University of Alabama’s Education Policy Center, 584 of the nation’s 970 community colleges are in rural areas.

During the pandemic, leaders like Kevin Boys, president at Southern State Community College in Ohio, worry about students who already were teetering on the edge, deciding college is too hard, and too confusing, to navigate during COVID-19. At Southern State, enrollment fell by 16% this semester compared with last fall.

“We have a lot of first-generation college students who are trying to muddle their way through the admissions process and learn the language of college,” said Boys, whose college consists of three campuses in an agricultural area about an hour east of Cincinnati.

“We try really hard to make it user friendly, but I’ll be the first to say it doesn’t always work. ‘What’s the bursar’s office?’ The lack of personal touch right now is tough for community col-

leges. That’s part of our DNA – the hand-holding, the face-to-face interaction.”

About an hour south of Atlanta, Noah Jones and his mom, Pamela, are trying to adapt to a mostly online model. It’s not going well.

“I’ve never been good at classes online,” said Noah, 20, who is on the autism spectrum and working to get his heating and cooling certificate from Southern Crescent Technical College. Noah and his mother have no internet at their home in Griffin, Georgia. “\$600 just to install the satellite dish is not an option when you’re on a fixed income,” Pamela Jones said. So she has to drive her son to campus twice a week to the school library, where appointments are the only way to access Wi-Fi.

Because of delayed financial aid, Noah didn’t get his books until five weeks after classes started. The \$170 laptop they splurged on when classes went online has held up so far, but they don’t have the money to put any anti-virus software on it. The school loaned out its limited supply of laptops in a matter of days, Pamela Jones said. If Noah’s breaks, she’s not sure what they’ll do.

‘What if I can’t achieve my goals?’

Just outside of Portland, Oregon, Peter Lance is in his third term of nursing school at Mount Hood Community College. When the pandemic hit and schools closed – which meant no in-person labs – Lance was worried his whole cohort would be set back. But this fall, Mount Hood has brought back in-person clinical studies at a local hospital, with students wearing masks and staying socially distanced. Lance is relieved to practice tasks like drawing blood, but being around other nursing students from other schools has been eye-opening.

Face masks

Continued from Page 1D

deficiency and a flooding of carbon dioxide. We know that the human brain is very sensitive to oxygen deprivation. There are nerve cells, for example in the hippocampus, that can’t be longer than three minutes without oxygen – they cannot survive,” the post said.

The Facebook user did not answer whether she fact-checked the information before creating the post.

Medical experts dispute claims of masks dropping oxygen to dangerous levels.

“While masks can block particles like respiratory droplets and aerosols that might contain coronavirus, they do not block gases like oxygen and carbon dioxide,” said Linsey Marr, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Virginia Tech and an expert in airborne disease transmission. “A recent study of people wearing surgical masks while walking around found no significant changes in carbon dioxide in their breath nor oxygen in their blood, compared to walking without a mask.”

Jonathan Parsons, a pulmonologist at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and director of the Ohio State Asthma Center, addressed those claims on the medical center’s website.

“Fortunately, the flurry of complaints has also given rise to a number of highly effective demonstrations in which medical professionals display their excellent oxygen levels while trying on different masks – and sometimes multiple masks at once,” he wrote. “Believe these demonstrations, because they’re true. Many professions require the regular use of masks, and the people who wear them don’t suffer as a result.”

The University of California-San Diego Health office posted a video on its YouTube page in which one of its demonstrators wore four masks at once and saw her oxygen level remain at 98%, according to a pulse oximeter, which measures oxygen saturation levels in the blood.

When she wore six masks at the same time, her oxygen levels dropped to 97%. Normal oxygen levels using a pulse oximeter range from 95%-100%.

“Masks are safe,” said Atul Malhotra, a pulmonologist and research chief of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine at University of California-San Diego Health. “The oxygen levels are stable. Carbon dioxide levels are stable. It does not impair breathing.”

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing masks in public. It advises children under the age of 2 not to wear masks.

Nicole Iovine, an infectious disease expert and hospital epidemiologist at the University of Florida, said guidelines for children under 2 are not related to oxygen deprivation.

“One of the reasons is that they can’t wear it effectively,” she said. “They’re constantly touching their faces, so it makes it a moot point. We also don’t have a lot of masks that would fit a 2-year-old.”

Masks are safe for older children.

“Masks will not affect your child’s ability to focus or learn in school,” according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. “The vast majority of children age 2 or older can safely wear a cloth face covering for extended periods of time, such as the school day or at child care. This includes children with many medical conditions.”

Experts dispute that wearing a mask leads to neurological damage, including in children.

“In order for them to have neurological symptoms, you have to have oxygen deprivation,” Iovine said. “There’s no evidence of that at all. If you’re going to have an effect, you need to have a cause.”

Studies have linked the virus itself to neurological problems, such as confusion, strokes and seizures.

A study published this month by researchers at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine found that one in seven infected patients experienced these issues.

“The neurological complications seen in COVID-19 are predominately the secondary effects of being severely ill and suffering from low oxygen levels in the body for prolonged periods of time,” Jennifer Frontera, a professor in the Department of Neurology at NYU Langone Health, said in a news release.

Iovine said research showed people were at a greater risk of experiencing the symptoms warned of in the post by not wearing a mask.

“The claims about wearing a mask is exactly the opposite of what the truth is,” Iovine said. “By not wearing a mask, there’s a greater chance of that happening.”

Our rating: False

Though the neurological damage described can occur when there is oxygen deprivation, medical experts say there is no evidence linking either to wearing masks.

Medical studies have shown a link between COVID-19 and those very neurological effects, meaning the decision to not to wear a mask puts people at a higher risk of experiencing them.

Our fact check work is supported in part by a grant from Facebook.

Children

Continued from Page 1D

The study evaluated data from March through July, including an analysis by the Boston Consulting Group.

Outside New York City and Long Island, the highest numbers of children thrust into or near poverty included counties across the Hudson Valley, Finger Lakes and Southern Tier.

The report estimated about \$800 million will be needed over the next year in housing, food, health insurance and remote learning investments to support the basic needs of children affected by the pandemic.

The long-range repercussions on children will result in about \$1.7 billion in additional costs to the state over the next 50 years, as well as \$8.5 billion in annual earnings lost because of learning deficits associated with a disrupted education, the report said.

“As New Yorkers determine how to respond to the pandemic during a precarious city and state budget situation, it is critical not to lose sight of its immediate and long-term effects on child poverty, mental health and overall well-being,” said Anthony Shih, president of the United Hospital Fund.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has urged federal lawmakers to include COVID-19-related financial aid for state and local governments in any forthcoming economic relief packages.

New York faces budget holes of more than \$13 billion this fiscal year and \$61 billion over the next four years in connection to the pandemic, state officials said.



Doctors caution pregnant women about the pain relievers they may take, some of which could harm the fetus. JAROSLAV FRANK/GETTY IMAGES

FDA cautions pregnant women on ibuprofen

Adrianna Rodriguez USA TODAY

Some of the most commonly used pain and fever medications could be harmful to pregnant women and their unborn babies, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced Thursday.

The agency requires labeling changes for nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to explain that if women take these medications at about 20 weeks or later into their pregnancy, they can cause fetal kidney problems.

NSAIDs include both prescription and over-the-counter drugs such as ibuprofen and naproxen, commonly known by the brand names Advil and Aleve. They also include diclofenac, celecoxib and aspirin above 81 mg.

According to the FDA, these medications work by blocking the production of a chemical in the body that causes inflammation.

“It is important that women understand the benefits and risks of the medications they may take over the course of their pregnancy,” said Dr. Patrizia Cavazzoni, acting director of the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Fetal kidney problems can lead to other pregnancy-related complications as the kidneys are responsible for producing amniotic fluid, the protective cushion surrounding the baby.

Fetuses produce the most amniotic fluid beginning about 20 weeks after conception, and kidneys damaged by NSAIDs could result in low levels of amniotic fluid, reducing a baby’s protection inside the mother’s womb.

Jennifer Wu, an obstetrician and gynecologist at

“When you’re pregnant, your baby is exposed to every medication you’re taking.”

Jennifer Wu
Obstetrician and gynecologist at New York City’s Lenox Hill Hospital

Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, said low levels of amniotic fluid could cause problems with the baby’s development.

Doctors can detect a decrease in amniotic fluid levels as soon as two days after taking these medications, the FDA said, but levels usually return to normal after a pregnant women stops taking them.

The agency recommends pregnant women avoid NSAIDs after 20 weeks and opt for other medicine to treat pain and fever during pregnancy, such as acetaminophen.

Wu said taking ibuprofen and other NSAIDs in the third trimester also could cause heart problems in the baby.

“When you’re pregnant, your baby is exposed to every medication you’re taking,” Wu said. “So you need to be careful and check with your health care provider before taking any medications, including over-the-counter medications.”

Health and patient safety coverage at USA TODAY is made possible in part by a grant from the Masimo Foundation for Ethics, Innovation and Competition in Healthcare. The Masimo Foundation does not provide editorial input.

Missouri professor develops new youth autism assessment

Roger McKinney Columbia Daily Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

COLUMBIA, Mo. – A new assessment developed by a University of Missouri professor is designed to help adolescents with autism transition into adulthood and autonomy.

Nancy Cheak-Zamora, associate professor at the MU School of Health Professions, partnered with five autism clinics around the U.S., including the MU Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders for her research.

“Validation of the Health-Related Independence for Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder Measure – Caregiver Version” was published recently in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.

“It focuses a lot on the health care needs of young people with autism, like medication and talking with doctors,” Cheak-Zamora said.

It can be overwhelming for young people with autism to make appointments with doctors or fill prescriptions when in the past it may have all been done for them, she said.

“We don’t have a lot of mechanisms to teach them how to do that,” Cheak-Zamora said. “Having this helps in making sure their caregivers can connect these young adults with health care services. Hopefully, they start this conversation fairly early, around 12 years, so the young adult can start taking on responsibilities.”

If someone with diabetes stops taking medication or seeing their doctor, they could die, but also there are problems if someone with autism stops seeing their doctor, she said.

The assessment is meant to be used by medical professionals meeting with young people, ideally in a health care setting. The doctor then discusses the results with the family and medical team.

“We’re working to get it online,” she said of the survey.

Apart from logistical things like filling prescriptions and scheduling appointments, the assessment is de-



Nancy Cheak-Zamora said her research “focuses a lot on the health care needs of young people with autism.” MU NEWS BUREAU

signed to help young people understand ideas like their sexual health and relationships, what insurance is and how to pay for doctor visits.

Cheak-Zamora herself struggled with undiagnosed dyslexia growing up, for which she received no services.

“One of the things I had in retrospect was permission to accomplish as much as everyone else,” she said. “I was given those tasks. It was really hard and I wish I had access to services, but I was able to meet those goals.”

She was given confidence by people around her, she said. Her goal with the assessment is to help adolescents with autism develop confidence.

“I don’t want to write their path for them,” she said. “I want them to develop their own goals.”

Her research was funded by the U.S. Defense Department. Autism is one of its areas of interest in providing care for military families, Cheak-Zamora said.

CORONAVIRUS NEWS BRIEFING

Infections rise in 41 US states; 40M global cases

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 across the globe passed 40 million Monday, according to Johns Hopkins University. The actual worldwide total is most likely considerably higher: Testing hasn’t been widely available, many have been asymptomatic, and certain governments have concealed numbers.

The U.S., Brazil and India are reporting the highest numbers of cases.

A USA TODAY analysis of John Hopkins University data shows 41 states had more cases in the latest week than in the week before. New case records were set in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

An analysis found 36 states had a higher rate of people testing positive than the week before. Those states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The U.S. has reported more than 8.1 million cases and nearly 220,000 deaths.

TSA sees 1M passengers, most since March

The Transportation Security Administration crossed a long-awaited threshold Sunday, screening 1 million passengers at airport checkpoints for the first time since March 17, spokesperson Lisa Farbstain said. TSA also screened 6.1 million passengers at checkpoints nationwide during the week of Oct. 12, its highest weekly number since the start of the pandemic.

“Although passenger volumes remain well below pre-pandemic levels, the 1 million single-day passenger volume is a noteworthy development that follows significant TSA checkpoint modifications in response to the COVID-19 outbreak,” Farbstain said.

The TSA screening figures hit their lowest point in April when several days were under 100,000.

NY governor says restrictions may relax soon

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that a new strategy for targeting New York’s coronavirus clusters has proved effective and may lead to changes in restrictions. The strategy targets hot spots that have popped up in “red zones” with more severe restrictions and imposes less strict restrictions on surrounding communities to contain the spread. The New York Post reported that these changes could come as soon as Wednesday. Cuomo said red zones in Brooklyn and Queens have already shown declines in positivity rates.

Latinos only group to see death increases

Latinos were the only ethnic group who saw a statistically significant increase of deaths from COVID-19 over the summer, according to a report published Friday by the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

An analysis of 114,411 COVID-19-associated deaths published in the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly report found the percentage of deaths among Latinos increased from 16.3% to 26.4% from May to August. In the same time period, decedents who were white decreased from 56.9% to 51.5%, and the percentage who were Black decreased from 20.3% to 17.4%.

The report notes there was a geographic shift in COVID-19-related deaths from the Northeast to the West and South, where Latinos account for a higher percentage of the population. But the shift alone doesn’t explain the increase in deaths, as disparities among Latinos and other racial and ethnic groups have been well-documented during the pandemic.

Twitter blocks Trump adviser tweet on masks

Twitter blocked a post Sunday from an adviser to President Donald Trump who suggested that masks do not work to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Scott Atlas, who joined the White House in August as a science adviser, had tweeted “Masks work? NO,” and said widespread use of masks is not supported. The tweet violated a Twitter policy that prohibits sharing false or misleading misinformation about COVID-19 that could lead to harm, the company said.

“I don’t understand why the tweets were deleted,” Atlas said in an email, calling it censorship. He said his tweet was intended to show that “general population masks and mask mandates do not work,” and he clarified that the correct policy is to use masks when one cannot socially distance.

Contributing: Steve Kiggins, N’dea Yancey-Bragg, Adrianna Rodriguez, Jayme Deerwester, Mike Stucka, The Associated Press

TRAVEL

Walk through history on these trails

Larry Bleiberg
Special to USA TODAY

One of the best ways to learn history is to literally follow in the footsteps of those who were there, says Karen Berger, author of the new book, “America’s National Historic Trails.”

“These are historic routes – a trail version of the national park system,” she says. The 19 federally recognized trails range from 54 to 5,000 miles and pass largely through rural areas, making them perfect for road trips and socially distant traveling.

The author shares some favorites:

Selma to Montgomery
National Historic Trail, Alabama

Although the shortest trail at 54 miles, this route resonates with many travelers, retracing the famous five-day voting rights march to the Alabama state Capitol in 1965.

The trail crosses the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, where John Lewis and others were beaten by police. Mostly following U.S. Highway 80, the route lets travelers delve into civil rights history.

Lewis and Clark
National Historic Trail

The 4,900-mile route tracing the Lewis and Clark Expedition stretches across the country from Pittsburgh to Astoria, Oregon, taking travelers over the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. Since much of the original route was along waterways, it allows travelers to float on wild and scenic rivers. “It’s sometimes called the journey that opened the American West,” Berger says. (Note: The visitor’s center in Omaha, Nebraska, is temporarily closed because of COVID-19.)

Juan Bautista de Anza
National Historic Trail,
Arizona and California

This route commemorating the settlement of San Francisco Bay is one of several trails linked to southwestern settlement and trade. It focuses on Spanish expansion from Mexico that occurred at roughly the same time as the Revolutionary War back east. The trail highlights include missions, parks and hiking paths.



Alabama’s Selma to Montgomery trail crosses the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, where civil rights marchers were beaten by police. PHOTOS BY BART SMITH



Explore the Battle of Kings Mountain on the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Stretching 1,200 miles across five states, this route brought American traders to the edge of the Spanish empire until it was eclipsed by railroads. Travelers can see prairies and visit museums and monuments before reaching the trail’s end at the Plaza in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Trail of Tears
National Historic Trail

In 1838, the Cherokee Indians were forced off their lands in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia and relocated to what is now Oklahoma. The series of migration paths are among the



An Iditarod dog team arrives at a checkpoint. The trail runs 2,300 miles from Anchorage to Nome.

most documented in the National Historic Trail system, Berger says, featuring scores of museums, monuments, parks and markers. The Cherokee are the largest of the nation’s federally recognized tribes. Most live in Oklahoma, though a smaller contingent that evaded relocation stayed in the Southeast.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake
National Historic Trail

Centering on the Chesapeake Bay, this water-and-road trail not only commemorates English explorer John Smith but also the region’s Native American Indian history and cultures. In total, it includes more than 2,000 miles of shoreline. Smith, who sailed to America

in 1607, was a larger-than-life personality. A former pirate, slave and mercenary, he developed Jamestown, Virginia, and explored the bay and its tributaries, creating detailed maps of the region. “His biography, you couldn’t make up,” Berger says.

Oregon National Historic Trail

Overlapping at times with the California, Pony Express and Mormon Pioneer trails, this path was an emigration route for families making a new start in the West. “Imagine a 2,000-mile journey with small kids, most of whom were walking,” Berger says. “This is about overcoming diversity, optimism and starting a new life and escaping poverty.” Travelers can still see wheel ruts where covered wagons once passed.

Overmountain Victory
National Historic Trail

During the latter half of the Revolutionary War, the British found themselves outmaneuvered and outsmarted by mountain men, who won 1780’s decisive Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina. “It’s not very well known, but it’s considered one of the turning points of the Revolutionary War,” Berger says. This trail through Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina includes driving and hiking routes.

Ala Kahakai National
Historic Trail, Hawaii

On the Big Island, this path explores an area developed by ancient settlers. The 175-mile corridor includes routes through lava fields, by beaches and up mountains. “On some parts you can walk on rock that was the Polynesian equivalent of pavement,” Berger says.

Iditarod National
Historic Trail, Alaska

This pathway made famous by the annual Iditarod Anchorage-to-Nome dogsled race includes a network of 2,300 miles of winter trails developed by Alaska Natives to connect villages. “It was an important factor in the settlement of Alaska. Most of it’s accessible only during the winter,” Berger says. (Note: The Bureau of Land Management has temporarily closed some visitor centers because of COVID-19.)

French streets
fall eerily
quiet during
virus curfew

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS – The streets of Paris and eight other French cities were deserted on Saturday night on the first day of the government-imposed 9 p.m. curfew that is scheduled to last for at least four weeks.

The measure was announced by French President Emmanuel Macron to curb the resurgent coronavirus as new infections peaked to over 30,000 a day. Macron said the curfews were needed to stop local hospitals from becoming overrun.

In France, nearly 20 million people are covered by the curfew and eerily deserted scenes were observed in Marseille, Lyon, Lille and Toulouse as well. The curfew runs until 6 a.m. daily. The country is deploying 12,000 extra police officers to enforce the new rules.

Many bar and restaurant owners have bristled at the order. An earlier months-long lockdown to combat the spread of coronavirus in the spring devastated the sector.

“I have the right to question the government’s approach. I think it’s a catastrophic measure for the industry,” said Xavier Denamur, who owns Les Philosophes and several other bistros in Paris’s chic Le Marais district.

Denamur said the curfew should not start before 11 p.m.

“At least that would not destroy us,” he said. “There’s no evidence that this difference of a couple of hours will have any effect on the virus circulating.”

France has seen over 33,300 confirmed deaths in the pandemic, the fourth-highest death toll in Europe.

Airlines reassuring hesitant flyers

Southwest, Delta offer
tours to allay concerns

Melissa Yeager
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

A small group of people gathered near the Southwest Airlines ticketing counter in Terminal 4 of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Socially distanced and wearing masks, they listened closely to David Harvey, vice president of Southwest Business, the airline’s business travel team.

Harvey has added “tour guide” to his list of duties, leading people responsible for planning travel for their companies through Sky Harbor to show them how the flying process has changed in response to the new coronavirus.

Tours are one tool Southwest and its competitor Delta use to regain the confidence of business partners, as well as help build consumer trust before the quickly approaching holiday travel season.

The COVID-19 pandemic, along with its related travel advisories and restrictions, hammered the airline industry.

Though the airlines have seen some improvement in leisure travel, business travel has not returned.

“We know that it is going to take a little bit longer for businesses to return to the sky. Their budgets have been hit. They are concerned about all the right things – liability, what’s their health and wellness plan,” Harvey said.

Southwest and Delta Air Lines conduct private tours, hoping to reassure their business partners that they are doing everything they can to keep travelers safe.

“You have anxious fliers not with a pandemic,” said Caitlin Blair, a Delta



Delta Air Lines flight attendant Caitlin Blair displays a snack bag and sanitizing wipe offered to passengers. ROB SCHUMACHER/USA TODAY NETWORK

flight attendant who lives in Phoenix. “You can feel that energy sometimes.”

She’s had to change her approach with passengers in small ways by doing things such as “smiling with her eyes.”

Despite their efforts, in absence of a vaccine, the airlines are fighting headwinds in regaining trust.

In October, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the trade group that represents the airline industry, touted research that showed a very low chance of contracting COVID-19 on a plane – 44 cases traced to a flight when more than 1.2 billion passengers traveled.

In August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told The Arizona Republic it was performing many more air contact investigations than it did before the pandemic. The CDC said that in 2018 and 2019, it performed an average of 150 air contact investigations each year. From January to July 2020, it initiated more than 1,500 investigations.

“CDC is not able to definitively determine that potential cases were associated (or not) with exposure in the air cabin

or through air travel given the numerous opportunities for potential exposure associated with the entire travel journey and widespread global distribution of the virus,” Jasmine Reed, a spokesperson for the CDC, said via email in August.

IATA said this is proof that the layered approach to passenger safety, which includes everything from electrostatic cleaning of the plane to wearing masks and socially distancing during the boarding process, is working.

Southwest and Delta decided the best way to ease fears of flying during the pandemic is to lift the veil and let customers see the approach to safety themselves. Both airlines conducted private tours at Sky Harbor last week.

“I did about six different tours with different travel agencies, travel managers,” Tom Wettig, station chief for Delta Air Lines, said.

Delta conducted tours for corporate travel partners in 12 other cities it serves. Along with several virtual town halls, Southwest has done similar tours in five cities it serves.

“It’s critical for them to actually come to the airport” to see the changes firsthand, Harvey said.

The tours go through the entire flight process, nearly every part of which has changed during the pandemic. Employees receive temperature checks. Kiosks to check in are spaced farther apart. Airlines board fewer passengers at a time.

Airline staff point out the aircraft’s HEPA filtration system, which turns over the air in the aircraft every two to three minutes.

The hope is that information will help provide some certainty in an uncertain time.

“So that they can be the voice back into their companies and say, look, Southwest is doing everything in their power to make it a clean and safe environment,” Harvey said.

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Montgomery: Alabama’s monthly unemployment rate jumped to 6.6% in September as the coronavirus pandemic kept up its continuing damage to the state’s economy, the government reported Friday.

ALASKA Anchorage: A coronavirus outbreak at Fairbanks Pioneer Home for seniors increased to 53 cases after 20 residents and five staff members tested positive over a week. The Department of Health and Social Services said no deaths have occurred, and one resident is hospitalized,

ARIZONA Whiteriver: In early June, the White Mountain Apache Tribe surpassed the Navajo Nation in total COVID-19 cases per capita, meaning it had one of the highest infection rates in the country. However, the tribe’s number of new daily and active COVID-19 cases dropped and its number of COVID-19-related deaths through the pandemic also remained consistently low with a fatality rate as of Oct. 14 of 1.6%, which is less than the state’s rate of 2.5% and the country’s at 2.7%. Health officials lend credit, in large part, to its robust contract tracing efforts on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

ARKANSAS Little Rock: A scaled-back version of the Arkansas State Fair, without crowds, rides and concerts, was held last weekend as the event’s size was significantly reduced because of the pandemic.

CALIFORNIA La Quinta: City leaders touted new business development against the headwinds of the pandemic in a socially distant state of the city address that reflected the realities under which the city has been operating since March.

COLORADO Pueblo: Last week, members of the Pueblo Police Department ventured to the rugged, rocky and dusty banks of Fountain Creek on new utility task vehicles to reach homeless people living there to provide coronavirus tests and hepatitis A vaccinations.

CONNECTICUT New Haven: Yale University has closed two museums on campus, raised its alert status for the coronavirus and canceled athletic activities for the week after an outbreak infected at least 18 members of the men’s hockey team.

DELAWARE Dover: From storybooks to the silver screen, all kinds of colorful characters will make an appearance at Akridge Scout Reservation near Camden for the Children’s Halloween Drive-thru Fantasy from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: The District has updated its list of “high-risk states” that will require travelers to self-quarantine for two weeks upon arrival to D.C. because of the coronavirus, WUSA-TV reported. The states added to the list are Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, according to D.C. Health.

FLORIDA Jacksonville: City officials are seeking reimbursement for more than \$150,000 in expenses for law enforcement, consulting fees and other funds spent preparing to host the Republican National Convention that never took place in their city because of coronavirus concerns.

GEORGIA Atlanta: Atlanta Public Schools won’t have in-school classes at least through the end of the year because COVID-19 data continues to trend the wrong way, said Superintendent Lisa Herring.

HAWAII Honolulu: Hawaii’s Board of Education has approved phasing out distance learning curriculum that parents and teachers complained contained racist and sexist content.

IDAHO Boise: Idaho’s coronavirus cases are rising fast and hospitals are seeing an influx of COVID-19 patients, Gov. Brad Little said.

ILLINOIS Chicago: Gov. J.B. Pritzker said Sunday that President Donald Trump and his allies in Illinois are partly to blame for the coronavirus spike in the state.

INDIANA Indianapolis: The debate set for Tuesday night among the three candidates for governor has been changed to a virtual format in what organizers said was a coronavirus safety move.

IOWA Des Moines: The state has reported nearly 3,000 new confirmed positive coronavirus cases in the last three days.

HIGHLIGHT: UTAH



Cars were forced to turn around for hours at a time during busy September weekends at Arches National Park in Moab, Utah. Fearing overcrowding amid the coronavirus pandemic, the park has closed every day in October to try to curb crowds. K. SOPHIE WILL/USA TODAY NETWORK

Moab: In September, Arches National Park was so popular, it had to close 16 times because of overcrowding. The park is not built to handle as many people as it’s attracting, with small parking lots and worries about crowding on the trails during a pandemic. In October, the park has closed every day to try and curb the crowds. Before the pandemic, Arches National Park was expected to have its busiest year yet after seeing 1.66 million visitors last year. September is traditionally the park’s busiest month. Park officials said they had to close the park 3% more than in 2019, even with a drop in overall visitation.

KANSAS Belle Plaine: Counties are making their own rules about whether to require poll workers to wear masks as the public votes, even though the state spent \$1.28 million to buy personal protective equipment for every polling location.

KENTUCKY Louisville: Physicians at the University of Louisville’s Trager Transplant Center elected to continue services during the pandemic, and so far, the results have paid dividends, with patients’ lives saved and no adverse outcomes from the coronavirus.

LOUISIANA New Orleans: City officials said they will investigate crowds that gathered in the French Quarter after the city relaxed coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Saturday was the first day that bars could have outdoor seats under guidelines set by Mayor LaToya Cantrell, who is taking a more gradual approach than the state.

MAINE Portland: The Maine Medical Center Research Institute is joining an initiative to create a centralized national data platform that scientists can use to study COVID-19 and identify potential treatments.

MARYLAND Baltimore: A historic Baltimore hotel has been repurposed amid the coronavirus pandemic, serving as a free isolation center for people with COVID-19. Since May, more than 600 people have come through the Lord Baltimore Hotel’s doors, the Baltimore Sun reported.

MASSACHUSETTS Boston: Massachusetts has delayed the resumption of jury trials until early next month. The delay comes amid a rising number of conformed cases of COVID-19 across the state.

MICHIGAN Detroit: PJ’s Lager House said Sunday on Facebook it has temporarily closed after an employee recently tested positive for the coronavirus, and said anyone who visited the Corktown neighborhood restaurant from Oct. 9-12 should consider getting tested.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis: Democratic U.S. Sen. Tina Smith skipped a campaign event with Sen. Elizabeth Warren over the weekend after learning that a person who attended one of her events eight days earlier had tested positive for the coronavirus.

MISSISSIPPI Jackson: The Mississippi State Fair closed Sunday after a 12-day run, but Agriculture Commissioner Andy Gipson said officials will take the unusual step of reopening the fair this weekend.

MISSOURI Springfield: Mayor Ken McClure was given the Governmental Excellence Award by Missouri State University for his work during the coronavirus pandemic.

MONTANA Missoula: The Montana State Prison has locked down because of an outbreak of the coronavirus in the facility, the state Department of Corrections said. The lockdown starting Friday occurred after the number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the prison jumped from eight to 36.

NEBRASKA Omaha: The state will reopen a series of federally funded grant programs to help small businesses and nonprofits that are struggling because of the pandemic, Gov. Pete Ricketts said.

NEVADA Reno: Skiing and snowboarding won’t be much different than usual on the slopes when Lake Tahoe ski resorts begin reopening next month. But a variety of changes are planned indoors because of COVID-19. Capacity limits will be in place, and some resorts are adopting reservation systems.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: The state has asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday to strike down a regulation that requires roughly 80,000 of its residents who are employed by Massachusetts companies to pay income taxes in the neighboring state while they work from home during the pandemic.

NEW JERSEY Trenton: The state’s daily number of COVID-19 cases has doubled since last month, reaching about 1,000 each day, Health Commissioner Judy Persichilli said.

NEW MEXICO Santa Fe: New Mexico Tech has temporarily closed out of caution against COVID-19 after officials learned of several off-campus weekend parties.

NEW YORK Albany: Ski resorts in New York will be allowed to open next month at half their indoor capacity with restrictions on sharing gondolas, and face coverings will be required off the slopes, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. Ski resorts can open under a series of restrictions consistent with rules for other entertainment venues. Masks will be required at all times except when eating, drinking or skiing. Gondolas and lifts will be restricted to members of the same party and shared or rented equipment must be disinfected between uses.

NORTH CAROLINA Asheville: A detainee at the Buncombe County Detention Facility has tested positive for the coronavirus, according to a release from the sheriff’s office. That individual has been under quarantine since entering the facility and is asymptomatic, according to sheriff’s office PIO Aaron Sarver.

NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck: The state’s daily positivity rate for COVID-19 topped 10% for the sixth time in the last seven days as health officials on Sunday reported 716 new cases, including three counties with more than 100 positive tests.

OHIO Newark: Coronavirus pandemic relief to Licking County, which totaled \$7.3 million at the end of August, has more than doubled with another \$12.7 million allocation which must be spent by the end of the year.

OKLAHOMA Bartlesville: Oklahoma Wesleyan University will waive the ACT/SAT admission requirement in light of testing issues during the coronavirus pandemic. Mark Weeter, the university’s vice president of academic affairs, said students will still take other assessments such as the Residual ACT or the Classic Learning Test for placement purposes.

OREGON Eugene: Amtrak quietly reduced the number of times the only passenger train that connects Oregon and California – the Coast Starlight route – stops in Eugene. Decreasing the long-distance services from daily to three times a week this month on 10 of its long-distance routes nationwide is one of the ways Amtrak is trying to cope with the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, but it will potentially cost Oregon millions.

PENNSYLVANIA Erie: Erie County Department of Health Director Melissa Lyon offered some advice to anyone attending President Donald Trump’s rally Tuesday at Erie International Airport. “Wear your face mask and and stay socially distant if you can,” Lyon said. “They are the only tools we have.” Up to 10,000 people are expected to attend the rally, scheduled for 7 p.m. The event will be held inside a hangar but at least some seats will be outside.

RHODE ISLAND Providence: The city is throwing a lifeline to small businesses struggling during the coronavirus pandemic with microgrants of up to \$10,000, officials said Monday.

SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia: Authorities broke up a party where at least 2,000 people were gathered without taking precautions to prevent spreading the coronavirus, fire officials said. The gathering occurred Saturday at an apartment complex during the University of South Carolina’s football game, Columbia Fire Department spokesman Mike DeSumma told The State.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: South Dakota Speaker of the House Steve Haugaard, R-Sioux Falls, told the Argus Leader on Monday that he spent the last two weeks dealing with a severe case of COVID-19. Hauggard said his fever finally broke Friday, and he intends to return to work this week.

TENNESSEE Knoxville: Sixteen residents and one staff member have died after a COVID-19 outbreak at a nursing home in eastern Tennessee. The Knoxville News Sentinel reported that more than two-fifths of The Heritage Center’s residents have tested positive for the coronavirus. Meanwhile, a fourth of the residents who have tested positive have died.

TEXAS El Paso: The El Paso area has reported its highest number of hospitalizations because of the coronavirus since the pandemic began, officials said Sunday. A record 449 hospitalizations were reported for Saturday, with 129 of those patients in intensive care, according to El Paso health officials.

VERMONT Bradford: Officials said Oxbow High School was closed for the weekend for deep cleaning after a staff member tested positive for the coronavirus.

VIRGINIA Roanoke: Virginia Tech is aiming for more in-person classes in the spring semester in 2021 while operating under COVID-19 restrictions, school officials said Monday.

WASHINGTON Everett: A ski resort has announced plans to reopen with restrictions, including limiting how many people are allowed on the mountain to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

WEST VIRGINIA Charleston: For the second straight week, West Virginia has set a record for weekly statewide confirmed coronavirus cases as officials continue to urge widespread testing. The 1,644 positive cases reported from Oct. 12 through Sunday shattered the record of 1,350 cases set in the previous week, according to the Department of Health and Human Resources website.

WISCONSIN Madison: A judge on Monday reimposed an order from Gov. Tony Evers’ administration limiting the number of people who can gather in bars, restaurants and other indoor venues to 25% of capacity. The capacity limits order was issued Oct. 6 by Andrea Palm, secretary of the state Department of Health Services, in the face of surging coronavirus cases in Wisconsin.

WYOMING Casper: Wyoming is trending in the “wrong direction,” with its COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations, Gov. Mark Gordon said in a news conference Monday, the Casper Star-Tribune reported.
From USA TODAY Network and wire reports

Ventilation and filtration play a key role in preventing the spread of COVID-19 indoors

RAMON PADILLA/USA TODAY

As the nation reopens after COVID-19 restrictions, people across the country are making decisions about going back to the office or putting their children back in classrooms. But how can you make the right call? We asked the experts how to improve indoor air quality, and what questions to ask your boss or school administrator.

“Often indoors people are the source of contaminants,” says Dr. Shelly Miller, a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder. If you’re in an enclosed place, virus particles can build up over time. “It’s like if you’re in a smoky bar, Miller says. “When it opens, there’s not a lot of smoke, but the more people smoke, it becomes a cloudy room. You can think of virus being released like that.”

What are ventilation rate, air change and why are they important

Knowing air quality terminology can help you ask the right questions. The **ventilation rate** is the volume of outside air provided per unit of time. **Air change rate** is the ventilation rate of a space divided by the volume of that space. “The air change rate tells you how fast you can clear the room from any airborne contaminants,” Miller says. “And specifically for coronavirus, if you can clear any airborne virus out quickly, you’ll reduce the transmission risk.”

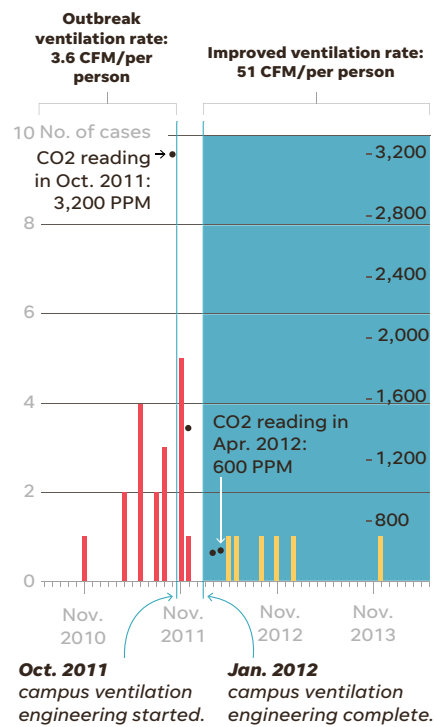
Most air-conditioning and heating systems cycle about 20% of fresh air into a building while recirculating the remaining 80% or so for energy efficiency. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) provides outside air ventilation standards for commercial buildings, including schools, day cares, computer labs and woodshops.

These minimum ventilation rates vary depending on the type of activity taking place in the room. Outdoor air dilutes contaminants produced by the occupants and other factors. A woodshop, for example, has a higher recommendation compared with a classroom based on activities like sanding or cutting wood.

Increasing outside air reduces transmission

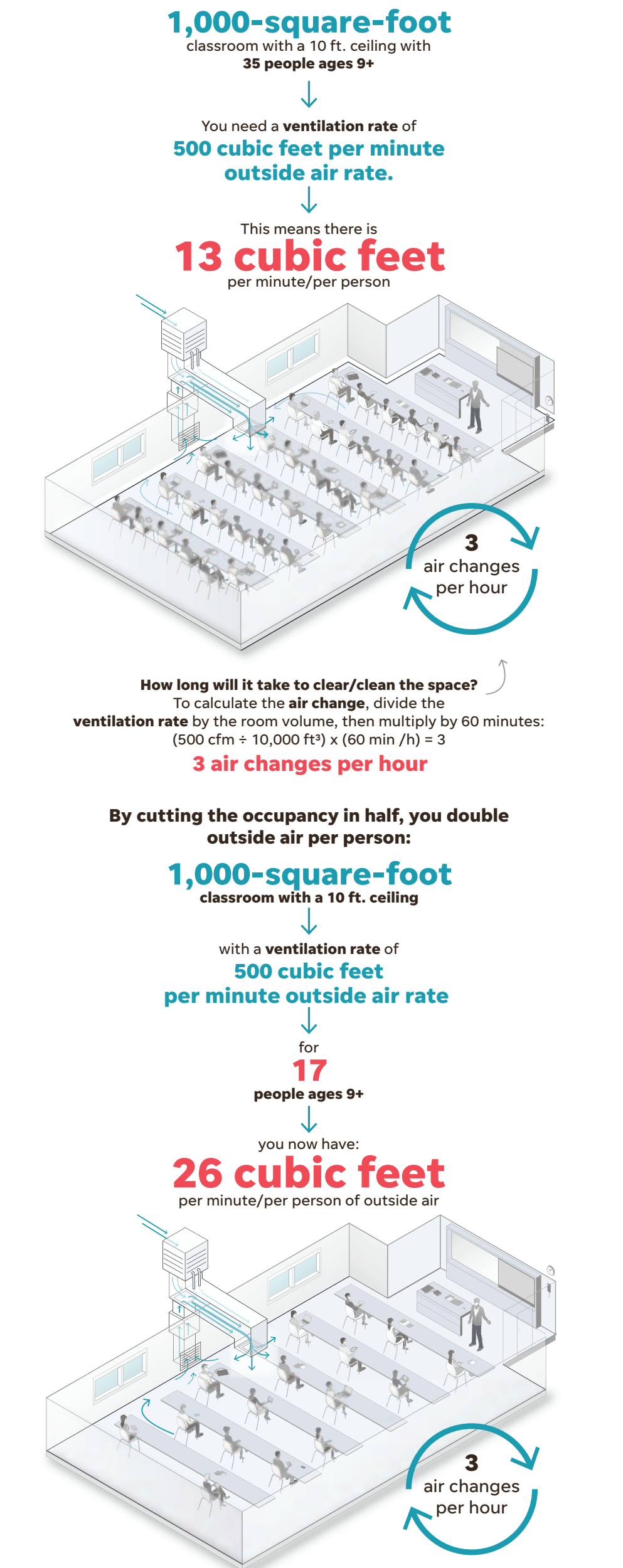
Like COVID-19, tuberculosis is an airborne disease. In a 2019 study of an outbreak at a university in Taiwan, rooms were found to be underventilated and the disease spread. Once the university increased the ventilation rate, the outbreak stopped

Tuberculosis outbreak at Taipei University in Taiwan
Engineers increased the ventilation rate in underground classrooms with shared ventilation. Shortly after, carbon dioxide levels dropped and the number of tuberculosis cases fell.

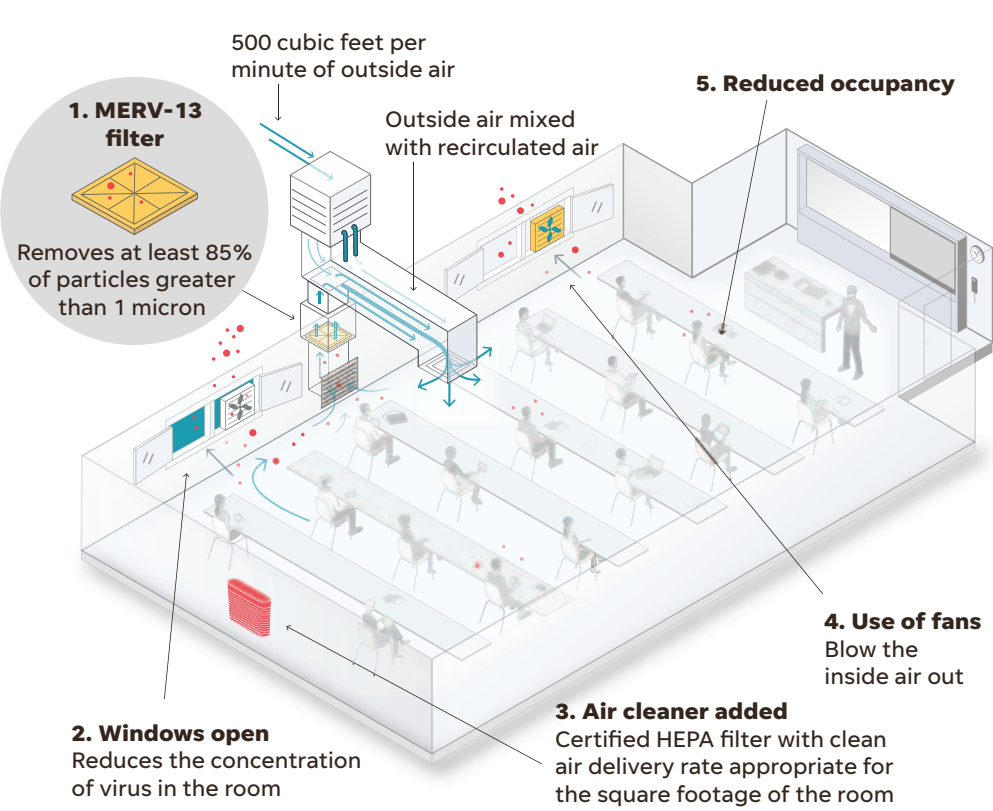


SOURCE Du C-R, Wang S-C, Yu M-C, et al. ‘Indoor Air’

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers recommended pre-pandemic ventilation rate:



Ideally, your office or school will make multiple improvements, such as:



Improving HVAC filtration of indoor air decreases COVID-19 risk

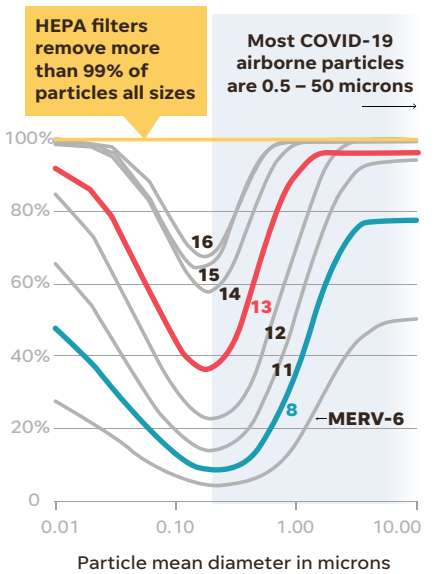
Air filters play a big role in improving indoor air quality. You might want to ask your office building manager or school representatives whether the HVAC filtration has been improved.

Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) is a rating that reflects the efficiency with which a filter can collect particles in different size ranges in a single pass. The higher the number, the better filtration a room will have. Many HVAC systems are built to run MERV-8 filters, which allow air to flow faster with less resistance. But this higher flow comes at a cost: They trap only 40% of particles in the 1-micron size.

On the other hand, “for a MERV-13, the filtration efficiency for a 1-micron particle is 85% or more,” Miller says. “We’d like to be able to efficiently remove particles around 0.5 to less than 5-micron because we know particles that size contain the virus.”

Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV)

The rating is based on the percentage of particles a filter can collect in a single pass. Because of physics, smaller and larger particles are easier to trap, and most filters are least effective at 0.3 microns. MERV-13 is recommended because it blocks most particles in the 0.5 to 1 micron size:



SOURCE American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); Kowalski, Wladyslaw & Bahnfleth, William. (2002). MERV Filter Models for Aerobiological Applications; Air Media

“Particles need not be larger than the space between fibers to be captured, so filters can effectively capture the fine particles produced by respiration that may contain SARS-CoV-2 or other respiratory pathogens,” adds Dr. William P. Bahnfleth, an engineer and professor of architectural engineering at Penn State and chair of the ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force. The same task force has created a building readiness plan to prepare for reopening.

Portable HEPA filters and germicidal ultraviolet light

In situations where HVAC filters cannot be improved or windows are nonexistent, portable air filters and germicidal ultraviolet light can help. Portable **HEPA** (High Efficiency Particulate Air) rated **air cleaners** remove more than 99% of airborne particles regardless of the particle size. Look for a certification from the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, and make sure the Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) matches or exceeds the square footage of the room.

Germicidal ultraviolet light (UVC) includes different wavelengths than UVA or UVB. UVC can be very effective at damaging viruses. There are two air disinfection applications on the market. One uses fixtures that are attached to the wall and a light is beamed overhead across a room. Bahnfleth notes “these ‘upper room’ systems can reduce the amount of active virus in the air equal to 10 air changes per hour or more of outdoor air.” The other application involves placing a UVC light in the recirculating air duct that takes air from the room you are in, irradiates it, then cycles the clean air back into that same room.